Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-94-166 *26 August 1994*

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Arab-Israeli Talks

Lebanon Reportedly Ready for Accord With Israel *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 26 Aug]* 1

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Chief Lauds Saddam Initiative *[Baghdad Radio]* 1
'Abd-al-Majid Meets Kuwaiti in Charge of POWs *[MENA]* 1
$1 Trillion Said Spent on Defense in 20 Years *[AFP]* 1

Islamic Affairs

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 23 Aug 2

Palestinian Affairs

Hamas Official Opposes 'Empowerment' Agreement *[Tehran International]* 3
Hamas Calls On Authority To Start Dialogue *[Jerusalem Radio]* 3
'Arafat Welcomes Call *[Jerusalem Radio]* 4
Hamas Leader Rejects Dialogue *[VOL]* 4
Police Claim Hamas Gathering Weapons in Gaza *[Jerusalem Radio]* 4
'Arafat: Rabin 'Obstructing' Financial Assistance *[Jericho VOP]* 4
'Arafat on Early Empowerment, Jordan Confederation *[Jerusalem TV]* 4
Quray' Calls For Trilateral Negotiations *[THE JERUSALEM POST 25 Aug]* 5
'Arafat Receives Russian Envoy, Yeltsin Letter *[Jericho VOP]* 5
Bhutto Reportedly To Meet With 'Arafat in Cairo *[Jerusalem Radio]* 5
PNC Members, Others Reject Charter Amendment *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 24 Aug]* 6
'Urayqat on Elections, Municipal Committee Formation *[Jerusalem International]* 8
'Arafat Approves Jericho Municipal Council *[Jericho VOP]* 8
'Arafat Meets Representatives of Released Prisoners *[Jerusalem Radio]* 8
Orient House Officials Said Under Investigation *[THE JERUSALEM POST 26 Aug]* 9
Six 'Rioters' Injured by IDF in Nabulus *[Jerusalem Radio]* 9

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

FIS' Haddam on Dialogue, U.S., French Policy *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 21 Aug]* 10
President Issues Statement on Dialogue *[Algiers Radio]* 13

Egypt

President Mubarak Returns From Visit to Geneva *[MENA]* 15
Musa on Israel Visit, ICO Meeting in Pakistan *[MENA]* 15
Foreign Minister Musa Comments on ICPD Issues *[MENA]* 16
Assistant Foreign Minister al-Safti Views ICPD *[AL-JUMHURIYAH 18 Aug]* 16
Population Minister Views ICPD Goals *[Cairo Radio]* 18
Muslim Brotherhood Issues Statement on ICPD *[AL-SHA'B 23 Aug]* 18
Article Says ICPD Result of CIA, Zionist Plan *[AL-AHRAR 14 Aug]* 19
Court Renews Lawyer's Remand for 45 More Days *[AL-WAFD 22 Aug]* 21

Rights Group Urges Release *[AFP]* 21
U.S. Policy on Iraqi-Turkish Pipeline Termed 'Odd' *[AL-AHRAM 18 Aug]* 22
Paper Criticizes Sudan's 'Provocative Acts' *[MENA]* 22
Paper Expects Progress on Syrian, Lebanese Tracks *[MENA]* 22
'Islamic Militants' Kill Tourist, Wound 3 in South *[AFP]* 23
Report Warns Against Salafis' Activities, Teachings *[AL-'ARABI 15 Aug]* 23
New Pakistani Envoy Presents Credentials to Musa *[MENA]* 24
Assembly Speaker Returns From South Africa, Singapore *[MENA]* 24
Wafd Party Secretary General Ibrahim Faraj Dies *[MENA]* 24

Libya

Clinton, U.S. 'Campaign Against Iran' Viewed *[Tripoli TV]* 24
Paper Views U.S. 'Lockerbie Calculations' *[JANA]* 24
Algerian Minister Visits, Meets al-Qadhdhafi *[JANA]* 25
Medical, Technical Assistance Offered to Algeria *[JANA]* 25

Morocco

Tariq 'Aziz Leaves After Giving Message to King *[MAP]* 25

Sudan

Al-Turabi on 'Carlos,' FIS, Israel, Islam *[Paris LE NOUVEL OBSERVATEUR 31 Aug]* 25
Jordan Said To Send 'Carlos' to Khartoum for CIA *[London AL-HAYAH 23 Aug]* 28
Daily Reports Jordanian Concern *[AFP]* 28
Paper Closed After Publishing Report *[MENA]* 28
U.S. Reported To Approve of Actions on 'Carlos' *[Omdurman Radio]* 29
Minister Says 'Carlos' Handed Over Legally *[Omdurman Radio]* 29
'Carlos' 'Friend' Describes Life in Khartoum *[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 19 Aug]* 29
Abu-Salih Denies Escalating Egypt Dispute *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 25 Aug]* 30
Human Rights Group Complains to UN About Egypt *[Omdurman Radio]* 31
Minister, Committees Reject ICPD Agenda *[Omdurman Radio]* 31

Western Sahara

Polisario, Government Urge International Pressure *[Algiers Radio]* 31

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Saudi Arabia

Rights Group Alleges 'Arrest Campaign' Launched *[London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI 23 Aug]* 33

United Arab Emirates

President Meets Mubarak in Geneva *[MENA]* 33

Yemen

YSP Leader on Damascus Meeting, U.S. Role *[London AL-WASAT 22-28 Aug]* 33

IRAQ

DPK's Barzani Accepts Cease-Fire Proposal *[Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan]* 37
Paper Attacks Clinton's B'nai B'rith Statements *[INA]* 38
Industry Minister Inaugurates Lead Foundry Project *[AL-THAWRAH 17 Aug]* 38

ISRAEL

Jerusalem Critical of Cancellation of Gore Visit *[MA'ARIV 26 Aug]* 39

Plan for Interim Peace With Lebanon Said Drafted *[Jerusalem New Channel 2 TV]* 39
Russian Envoy Pessimistic on Talks With Syria *[MA'ARIV 26 Aug]* 39
Demands Say in Jerusalem's Future *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 39
Golan Moshav Vows 'Firm Measures' Against Pullout *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 25 Aug]* 40
Druze Leader on Relations With Syria *[Rome L'INFORMAZIONE 25 Aug]* 41
Bus Company Said Planning To Run Buses To Jordan *[AKHBAR AL-USBU' 25 Aug]* 41
Crossing, New Road on Border With Jordan Started *[Jerusalem Radio]* 42
Gush Qatif Settlers on Illegal Building, Terror *[Jerusalem Radio]* 42
Palestinian Police Said Releasing Murder Suspects *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 24 Aug]* 42
Palestinian Treatment of 'Collaborators' Noted *[Jerusalem Radio]* 43
IDF Clamps Curfew on Central Hebron *[Jerusalem Radio]* 43
IDF Closes Mosque, Imposes Partial Closure *[Jerusalem Radio]* 43
Arab Knesset Member on Planned Iraqi Contacts *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 25 Aug]* 43
Hassan Envoy Invites Rabin to Morocco Conference *[Jerusalem Radio]* 44
Arab Council Leaders End Five-Week Strike *[THE JERUSALEM POST 25 Aug]* 44
NRP Young Guard Calls for Ideological Changes *[HA'ARETZ 25 Aug]* 44

JORDAN

Party Leader on Pan-Arab Action, Iraqi Embargo *[AL-'IRAQ 13 Aug]* 46
Iran To Pay Phosphate, Fertilizer Debt *[JORDAN TIMES 21 Aug]* 46
Poll Shows Support for Washington Declaration *[JORDAN TIMES 25 Aug]* 47
'Jordanian Afghans' Trial To Begin *[AKHBAR AL-USBU' 25 Aug]* 48
Editorial Says Kingdom Needs 'Radical' Reform *[JORDAN TIMES 21 Aug]* 48

LEBANON

Plan To House Palestinians Elicits Various Views 50
Al-Hariri Defends Plan *[Beirut Radio]* 50
Samahah Questions Responsibility *[Beirut Radio]* 50
Radio: Plan 'Suspect Scheme' *[VOL]* 50
Phalangist Leader Criticizes Plan *[VOL]* 51
Hamas Delegation Rejects Plan *[Beirut Radio]* 51
Prime Minister Leaves for France on Private Visit *[Beirut Radio]* 51
'Infiltrators' Identified as PFLP-DFLP Wing Members *[VOL]* 51

SYRIA

Voting in People's Assembly Elections Ends *[Damascus Radio]* 52
Voting To Repeat in 3 Districts *[Damascus TV]* 52
Al-Shar' 'Indirectly' Condemns Kurdish Party *[Istanbul HURRIYET 23 Aug]* 52
Economy Minister Receives Egyptian Counterpart *[Damascus Radio]* 53
Paper Criticizes PLO-Israeli Empowerment Talks *[Damascus Radio]* 53
Paper Says Israel Must Not 'Remain Above the Law' *[Damascus Radio]* 53

SOUTH ASIA

India

Compelling Pakistan To Abandon Nuclear Arms Urged *[Delhi Radio]* 54
Reaction to Killing of Bombay BJP President Noted 54
Rao, Advani Condemn Killing *[Delhi Radio]* 54
Bombay Strike Protests Killing *[Delhi Radio]* 54
Cost Forces Delhi To Delay Atomic Energy Projects *[THE ECONOMIC TIMES 20 Aug]* 54

Iran

Indian Commerce Minister on Visit 55
Meets With Rafsanjani *[Tehran Radio]* 55
Meets Velayati *[Tehran TV]* 55
Discusses Ties With Counterpart *[IRNA]* 55

Bosnian Group Arrives, Holds 'Substantive' Talks *[Sarajevo Radio]* 56
Agreement Reached With Finland To Pay Debt Arrears *[Tehran Radio]* 56
Khamene'i Criticizes Media 'Sensation' *[Tehran Radio]* 56
Velayati Urges UN Efforts To Solve Tajik Crisis *[Tehran Radio]* 56
Larijani Views Outlook for ROK, DPRK *[HAMSHAHRI 18 Aug]* 57
Judiciary Chief on Plots Against Muslims *[IRNA]* 57
U.S. Officials' 'Provocative' Remarks Noted *[IRNA]* 58
President Hashemi-Rafsanjani Discusses Situation *[Tehran TV]* 58
Power of Media Noted, IRNA Criticized *[KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL 18 Aug]* 69
Industry Minister Describes Investment Under Plans *[IRNA]* 70
Peshmerga Claim To Blow Up Gas Pipeline 16 Aug *[Voice of Iranian Kordestan]* 70

Pakistan

Spokesman on Bhutto Trip, Nuclear Question *[THE MUSLIM 25 Aug]* 71
Asif on Indians in Afghanistan, Sharif Remarks *[THE FRONTIER POST 25 Aug]* 72

Sri Lanka

Parliament Elects New Speaker *[Colombo International]* 72
Resolution of Ethnic Problem Through Talks Sought *[Colombo International]* 73

Arab-Israeli Talks

Lebanon Reportedly Ready for Accord With Israel

TA2608045594 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 26 Aug 94 pp 1, 10

[Report by political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer]

[Excerpt] The Lebanese Government has expressed a desire to engage in detailed negotiations with Israel in a bid to resolve the conflict between the two countries along the lines of the Jordanian model.

A message in this spirit was conveyed in a series of communications Jerusalem received from authoritative Lebanese Government figures and from direct contacts between Israeli and Lebanese representatives held in Europe.

Our political correspondent has learned that the messages received in Jerusalem said that the Lebanese Government is prepared to reach an arrangement with Israel within a short time.

The Lebanese messages apparently came in response to an Israeli proposal drafted at the Defense Ministry and communicated to Lebanon by Uri Lubrani, coordinator of government activities in Lebanon, at the beginning of this year.

The Lebanese recently sent a counterproposal in response to the Israeli proposal. The Lebanese proposal suggests that the two countries negotiate an Israeli withdrawal from south Lebanon and full normalization of relations, but defer the signing of a full agreement until an accord is signed with Syria.

The Lebanese messages to Israel emphasize Lebanon's economic difficulties as the factor prompting Lebanon to normalize relations with Israel in a bid to foster ties with the West, most notably with the United States.

The Lebanese initiative, which is now being scrutinized, may well have been made with Syria's knowledge and tacit consent. In conversations with Israeli representatives, the Lebanese have emphasized that Israel should reach an arrangement with Syria, as Syria is almost the only one able to curb Hizballah activities in south Lebanon. [passage omitted]

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Chief Lauds Saddam Initiative

JN2508195494 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 25 Aug 94

[Text] Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, secretary general of the Arab League, has expressed high appreciation for the initiative which leader President Saddam Husayn's has launched to clear the Arab atmosphere and safeguard Arab interests. Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid reiterated the Arab League General Secretariat's support for all efforts to lift the blockade imposed on Iraq after its implementation of its obligations in accordance with UN Security Council resolutions. These remarks by the Arab League secretary general were made when he received at the Arab League Headquarters in Cairo today Sa'd 'Abd-al-Majid al-Faysal, senior under secretary of the [Iraqi] Foreign Ministry.

The senior Foreign Ministry under secretary reviewed leader President Saddam Husayn's initiative calling for normalizing inter-Arab relations to enable our Arab nation to face up to the challenges facing it. He noted that the initiative aims at enabling Arab states to rely on their own resources and those of the Arab nation to safeguard pan-Arab security and protect the Arab nation's supreme interests without any foreign interference or influence.

He urged the Arab League secretary general to take the appropriate measures to achieve those objectives and help clear the Arab atmosphere and resolve inter-Arab differences under the Arab canopy, represented by the Arab League.

'Abd-al-Majid Meets Kuwaiti in Charge of POWs

NC2508140194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1330 GMT 25 Aug 94

[Text] Cairo, 25 Aug (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid today conferred with Du'ayj Ya'qub al-'Anzi, head of the committee for Kuwaiti prisoners detained in Iraq. The meeting was attended by 'Ali Bin-Khaylan, legal adviser at the Kuwaiti permanent delegation to the Arab League.

$1 Trillion Said Spent on Defense in 20 Years

NC2508124594 Paris AFP in English 1208 GMT 25 Aug 94

[Report by Nadim Kawash]

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Aug 25 (AFP)—Arab states spent nearly a trillion dollars on defence in 20 years most of which was triggered by regional conflicts, according to a new book published here.

The 400-page book "Weapons and Bread ... Defence Expenditure in the Arab World" is the first regional publication to cover spending on arms and security in the 22-member Arab League, author 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Faris said.

Al-Faris, an economics professor at the Emirates university, said the Arab region had suffered several military regimes, conflicts among the League members and wars with Israel and other countries.

"Due to these phenomena and other factors like the sharp increase in oil revenues, Arab countries spent around 1,000 billion dollars on military institutions during the two decades between 1970 and 1990," the book said.

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"The military burden in the Arab region was the highest in the world whether it is measured by its ratio to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) or to the expenditure in general. The Arab world has also become a key market for international arms exports."

Al-Faris, who had held official posts in the United Arab Emirates, gave no breakdown but noted nearly half the Arab League's members had been or were still ruled by military regimes, which "have strong influence on their societies."

He listed Egypt, Syria, Iraq, Sudan, Algeria, Yemen, Libya, Somalia and Mauritania, which he said accounted for 72 percent of the Arab population.

"The larger part of the Arab military expenditure was born by member states surrounded geographically by other Arab countries. This means that inter-Arab conflicts and arms races consumed a main part of that expenditure," he said.

"The economic cost of this military spending is an actual cost of inter-Arab rifts. What Arab states are paying to maintain their superiority far surpasses what they are reaping on the regional level."

Al-Faris told AFP his statistics did not cover the economic, social and military costs of the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war and the 1990-1991 Gulf conflict, which was sparked by the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

Official Arab figures have shown the Gulf war cost more than 650 billion dollars while independent estimates have put Iraq's losses from its war with Iran at more than 200 billion dollars.

Military experts said arms purchases started to slow down in some Arab states in the mid-1980s after a sharp fall in aid from Gulf oil producers due to a drop in crude prices. But they have picked up again in Gulf states, which have announced plans to bolster their armies following the invasion of Kuwait.

Al-Faris said the high military spending in the late 1970s and early 1980s was partly cushioned by the Arab large oil earnings, which peaked at 212 billion dollars in 1981 compared with around 92 billion dollars in 1993.

"During those two decades, the growth in military expenditure in the Arab region exceeded the growth in the GDP and investments. This led to the transfer of a large part of economic resources to the military sector," he said.

"This was partly offset during the oil boom but Arab states began to face difficulties in financing their defence sector due to the drop in oil prices, a sharp decline in foreign aid and the rise in arms prices."

The author concluded high military spending could be partly tackled by mapping out a pan-Arab strategy to ensure security for all members, identifying priorities and potential enemies.

"Guaranteeing security for Arab states whose neighbours do not have any economic, military or strategic significance will enable those states to gradually reduce defence spending," he said.

"The strategy will also allow Arab states to extend aid to the members which are confronting a common enemy.

"The absence of security coordination will only lead to further waste of resources and this in turn will aggravate the political, economic and social problems in the Arab world."

Islamic Affairs

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 23 Aug

NC2608092394

[Editorial Report] The following is a review of all items in the 23 August issue of the Arabic-language newspaper Cairo AL-SHA'B that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. Population Minister Interviewed on ICPD
2. Ghannouchi Urges Elections in Algeria
3. Columnist Assails Population Minister, ICPD
4. Muslim Brotherhood Issues Statement on ICPD
5. Scholar Sees Muslims' Enemies Urging Birth Control

POPULATION MINISTER INTERVIEWED ON ICPD:

Page 3 features a 3,000-word interview with Population Minister Mahir Mahran by Muhammad 'Abd-al-Quddus about the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD).

GHANNOUCHI URGES ELECTIONS IN ALGERIA

In a 600-word commentary on page 3, Rached Ghannouchi, leader of Tunisia's Ennahda, sees "real revolution" in Algeria. He urges release of FIS leaders Abbassi Madani and Ali Belhadj and the holding of elections.

COLUMNIST ASSAILS POPULATION MINISTER, ICPD

In a 1,900 commentary entitled "This Suspect Conference" on page 5, Muslim Brotherhood figure Dr. Ahmad al-Malat denounces the ICPD. He says:

"Over 20,000 participants, including homosexuals, will attend the conference. The ICPD program of action contains matters truly inimical to our religion. The ICPD's organizers are supervised by U.S. agencies that have long-term, circuitous, and not particularly innocent objectives concerning the Third World, of which we are part. Theirs is a long-term scheme to exterminate the Third World."

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Al-Malat wonders why Cairo was chosen as a venue for the ICPD, suggesting that by accepting to host the conference, Egypt will be obligated to accept its recommendations. He writes:

"I, among others, wonder: Why Cairo and not any other city? And, why so many participants? And, what are the Egyptian people's obligations toward the recommendations passed by such an imposing gathering? What pressures were imposed on Egypt to make it host the conference and consequently abide by its recommendations? With Egypt being the host and its president the ICPD chairman, it will be less likely to voice opposition than other attendants. It will have to comply with everything the conference passes."

Al-Malat then assails Egyptian officials, particularly the population minister "who was particularly vocal" in defending the ICPD and the "diabolical triangle" of "adultery," "abortion," and "sexual freedom" that the conference is said to advocate.

The ICPD, al-Malat concludes, is "a pure U.S.-Zionist conspiracy, hatched abroad and acted out in Cairo. Its schemers are afraid of a population increase in the Islamic world. They consider such an increase a threat to U.S. national security. They were troubled by the Islamic revival in the Arab world and particularly in Egypt. They felt the jinni was trying to break out of the bottle. Islam, however, will deflect their aims and God's righteousness will prevail."

MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD ISSUES STATEMENT ON ICPD

A 1,100-word statement expressing the Brotherhood's disapproval of the ICPD appears on page 7.

SCHOLAR SEES MUSLIMS' ENEMIES URGING BIRTH CONTROL

In a 500-word commentary on page 12, Scholar Muhammad al-Ghazali sees fear from a revitalized Muslim population as the motive for current calls for family planning. He writes:

"The growing vitality of the Muslim people prompted their enemies to view the future with alarm. The Muslims currently represent over a fifth of the world population. Under the ashes of their past glory, an ember burns with indignation over the wrongs that have befallen them and distaste for their enemies' debauchery."

The current calls for "birth control" al-Ghazali adds, were "prompted solely by the growing vitality of Muslims. Should the Muslims disappear from the surface of the earth this debate would come to an end and all people will be left to propagate at will."

Palestinian Affairs

Hamas Official Opposes 'Empowerment' Agreement

NC2508190294 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1730 GMT 25 Aug 94

[Report by Muhammad Bishqar in Beirut]

[Text] Hamas, the Palestinian Islamic Resistance Movement, has rejected the agreement signed by the PLO and the Zionist enemy in Cairo last night transferring some civilian powers to the Palestinian Authority in the occupied West Bank.

This position was made known by Sa'id Abu-Marzuq, director of the Hamas Political Bureau, in an exclusive interview we had with him today. He said the agreement is unfair to the Palestinian people. He added:

[Begin Abu-Marzuq recording] We do not believe that the agreement, whether taken in its entirety or examined in detail, has benefited the Palestinians or given them significant gains. We do not view the entrance of a Palestinian policeman into one area or a minister's assumption of a certain post as anything more than meaningless appearances. These are not the core of the issue. The core of the issue is that we want full independence and the full return to our whole territory. [end recording]

Sa'id Abu-Marzuq asserted that operations against the Zionist occupation troops in the Gaza Strip will continue. He said Hamas is very careful not to get involved in inter-Palestinian intrigues.

He praised relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran, describing them as strong and special relations based on the two parties' identical positions. Commenting on the Islamic Republic's positions on the Palestinian issue, he said:

[Begin Abu-Marzuq recording] The Islamic Republic's positions on this issue are distinctive and honorable. They are based on principles, faith, and conviction. This stance will have consequences in the future. Iran is the only party that has consistently backed the correct Islamic position on Palestine. God willing, others will take similar positions and rally around Iran's honorable stance when the current policies fail. [end recording]

Hamas Calls On Authority To Start Dialogue

TA2508122094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 25 Aug 94

[Text] Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] has called on the Palestinian Authority to start a dialogue, on the condition that Hamas members detained by Palestinian policemen be released and that no more arrests are carried out. A communique issued by Hamas in Gaza

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states that there is no contradiction between the agreement signed by the Palestinians and Hamas' struggle against Israel. On the contrary, the two complement each other.

'Arafat Welcomes Call

TA2608104594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 26 Aug 94

[Text] PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat says yes to a call from the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] fundamentalists to resolve their differences. 'Arafat's spokesman in the Gaza Strip said: We welcome the invitation from Hamas to open a quiet dialogue.

Hamas had earlier demanded that 'Arafat must order the Palestinian police to release Hamas terrorists who are continuing their attacks on Israelis.

Hamas Leader Rejects Dialogue

NC2608124894 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 26 Aug 94

[Text] Musa Abu-Marzuq, head of the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, in Lebanon, has said that Hamas rejects dialogue with Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat and refuses to participate in the legislative elections in the self-rule area in Gaza and Jericho. At a news conference today he said Hamas believes that the common denominators of dialogue must show respect and appreciation for the Palestinian resistance and for the Palestinian mujahidin who seek to liberate their homeland.

Police Claim Hamas Gathering Weapons in Gaza

TA2608051594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 26 Aug 94

[Text] In the Gaza Strip, Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] is reportedly gathering weapons. According to a source in the Palestinian police force, in the last week Hamas activists have bought some 30 weapons from criminals, some from Israeli sources, and others recently stolen from an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] Army base at Ze'elim.

The Palestinian police, however, do not believe that at this point Hamas will use the weapons because of the wave of arrests of Hamas activists and because of the lack of popular support in the Strip, because such activity could harm negotiations with Israel.

'Arafat: Rabin 'Obstructing' Financial Assistance

JN2608080894 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0630 GMT 26 Aug 94

[Text] His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat has accused Israel of obstructing and delaying financial assistance from the donor countries. In his statements, 'Arafat cited Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's latest comments that if the Palestine National Council does not amend the National Charter, financial assistance will be late in reaching the Palestinian National Authority.

His Excellency President 'Arafat's made these statements when he received a delegation from the (al-Wuhaydat) tribes yesterday. His excellency added that the arms of the revolution and the intifadah will continue to build the independent Palestinian state. In his address, President 'Arafat sent greetings to all Palestinian detainees in Israeli jails.

'Arafat on Early Empowerment, Jordan Confederation

TA2408183094 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 24 Aug 94

[Video report by Menashe Raz including remarks by PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat—italicized passages in English]

[Text] [Raz] After meeting members of the Labor young guard this morning, Yasir 'Arafat commented on the early empowerment agreement that is about to be signed this evening in Cairo.

Would the PLO be able to be responsible for the welfare, for the health, for the education, and the tourism in the West Bank?

['Arafat] *Not to forget that the PLO is not an ordinary organization. Actually, we were working from the beginning as a government in exile. We were receiving money from the Arab countries, and we were spending this money from the budget of the PLO to many of these empowerments.*

[Raz] During the meeting, Yasir 'Arafat refused to address himself to the cancellation of the Palestinian Covenant clauses which do not recognize the State of Israel and call for its destruction. When asked about it, he reminded us of the famous word he used at the time—which was followed by piles of commentaries—caduc [French: "obsolete"]. In very free translation it means null and void.

['Arafat] *If we have to speak about charters, we have to speak about all the charters. And not to forget, I had mentioned in 1988, even before the signing of the agreement, when they asked me about the charter, I said caduc. Do you know what is the meaning of caduc in French?*

[Raz] Regarding the reports that one-third of the Palestinian National Council [PNC] at this stage refuses to cancel the disputed clauses of the Palestinian Covenant, 'Arafat laughed and said: Some of them are dead.

[A similar report by 'Anat Saragusti on Jerusalem New Channel 2 TV in Hebrew at 1700 GMT on 24 August adds a recorded passage by Yasir 'Arafat, in English, commenting on the PNC members, saying: "Today, there is a big communique from those who are living in Amman—far away of the troubles of their peoples, their

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masses. Those who are not approaching the troubles of the masses can speak louder."]

The PLO chairman stressed that no demand was made on his part to establish a link between canceling the clauses and an Israeli declaration favoring the establishment of a Palestinian state.

['Arafat] *According to our decision in the PNC, we are looking to have a confederal relation with Jordan. If the Jordanians do not accept, okay. We will find another solution.*

Quray' Calls For Trilateral Negotiations

TA2508120794 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 25 Aug 94 p 2

[Report by Lamia Lahoud]

[Text] Israel, Jordan, and the Palestinians should hold trilateral negotiations, Ahmad Quray' (Abu-'Ala') told THE JERUSALEM POST this week.

Quray', who holds the Palestinian portfolio for Economics, Industry, and Trade, said he opposes last week's agreement between Israel and Jordan on trade between Jordan and the territories. Having worked hard for good relations with Jordan, he said, he was disappointed that the Jordanians signed the agreement while the Palestintans are negotiating early empowerment in the territories with Israel.

"This agreement should have been signed with the Palestinians at a later stage, especially since most of the trade items are vital to the Palestinian economy, like textile, sweets, and aluminum," he said.

But he does not believe that it is too late to establish better relations with Jordan and to enter trilateral talks. "There is no alternative to trilateral talks and coordination and understanding between the three sides," he said.

Another Palestinian source confirmed that the Palestinian authority had agreed in principle to participate in trilateral negotiations, but said there are still some issues to be resolved. According to the source, the Palestinians would like the Europeans to be present at the talks. So far only the US is represented in the bilateral talks between Israel and Jordan.

According to Quray', the Palestinians must now concentrate on establishing good relations with their Arab neighbors, especially Jordan. A high level Palestinian delegation headed by Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, who holds the Information portfolio, left for Jordan yesterday to discuss a series of issues, including those relating to the economy, said Samir Hulaylah, director of trade for the Palestinian authority.

Quray' is in the process of building up his economic authority in Gaza and Jericho. He said the offices in Gaza are beginning to function, while he is still looking for suitable offices in Jericho. "I am on the road between Gaza, Jericho, and different West Bank towns. I don't have one fixed office yet." He said that he is setting up local councils of businessmen and industrialists all over the territories, who will advise the authority on their needs and on priorities in their regions.

Quray' fears that the authority is concentrating too much on Gaza, while it should increase its presence in Jericho and the territories. "For Gaza we don't have competitors, no one wants it. But for the West Bank we have more than one competitor," he said hinting at the possibility of a deal between Israel and Jordan over the territories and East Jerusalem. Quray' said one of the reasons the Palestinian authority is concentrating in Gaza is that Yasir 'Arafat still can't move around freely between Gaza and Jericho.

Quray' was speaking at his office in the Palestinian Economic Council for Development and Reconstruction, near Jerusalem.

'Arafat Receives Russian Envoy, Yeltsin Letter

JN2608081794 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0630 GMT 26 Aug 94

[Text] His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat received Russian presidential envoy Viktor Posuvalyuk in his office yesterday evening and was handed a letter from President Yeltsin. Posuvalyuk said his country supports the Palestinian National Authority in all political and economic fields.

The Russian envoy also submitted a request to Israel yesterday stating that his country wishes to participate in the final settlement on Jerusalem, a request that surprised the Israeli officials. Posuvalyuk justified his request by noting that the largest group of Orthodox Christians exists in Jerusalem and that the Orthodox Church holds a great deal of real estate in the holy city.

Bhutto Reportedly To Meet With 'Arafat in Cairo

TA2508045194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 25 Aug 94

[Excerpt] Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto says she has dropped her planned visit to the Gaza Strip scheduled for the fourth of September. She told reporters in Karachi that the date clashed with the meeting between PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat and U.S. Vice President Al Gore.

According to political sources in Jerusalem, the meeting between 'Arafat and Bhutto will probably take place in Cairo. 'Arafat is due in the Egyptian capital to meet Gore, who will be attending a UN population conference, and Prime Minister Bhutto is likely to meet him there. [passage omitted]

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PNC Members, Others Reject Charter Amendment

MM2508154094 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 24 Aug 94 p3

[Text] Amman, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Fatah Central Committee Member Hani al-Hasan has stated that, at its latest meeting, the Central Committee discussed the peace process developments, noting the Israeli procrastinations and nonadherence to what has been agreed upon. It dwelt at length on the Israeli attempts to destroy the Palestinian national movement by eliminating the Palestinian National Charter and turning the Fatah Movement into a security organ. In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT on the question of the press conference which was supposed to be held yesterday at the [Palestine] National Council [PNC] headquarters in Amman but was not held because PNC Deputy Speaker Salim al-Za'nun refused to open the doors of the PNC headquarters to those who were supposed to take part in the press conference, al-Hasan said: "Anyone following international and regional developments would discern the Israeli plans which seek to take everything and give nothing." He pointed out that "Fatah's Central Committee did not accept the introduction of any amendments to the Palestinian National Charter until after the establishment of a Palestinian state and the achievement of a comprehensive settlement guaranteeing full Israeli withdrawal from all the territories occupied by Israel in the 1967 aggression and fulfillment of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination."

In his statement, al-Hasan said that it was strange that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin was insisting on the amendment of the Palestinian National Charter while he himself procrastinated and delayed withdrawal from the occupied Palestinian territory and exploited developments to serve his election campaign. Currently, he said, there are 10,000 Israeli soldiers in and around the Gaza Strip, and the Palestinian detainees in Israeli prisons and detention camps are being used as chips in a monotonous bargaining process, but all Palestinian detainees without exception should have been released immediately and unconditionally.

Al-Hasan added: All these reasons combined prompted Fatah's Central Committee, at its latest meeting in Tunis in the absence of Abu-'Ammar ['Arafat], to reaffirm our clear position on the Palestinian National Charter, insisting that it should be preserved and not made subject to bargaining because it remains sacrosanct so long as the Palestinian people have not regained all their rights to their territory and sovereignty. Al-Hasan criticized Dr. Nabil Sha'th [planning minister in the Palestinian Authority] for denying that Fatah's Central Committee took that position. Al-Hasan said that Dr. Sha'th should not forget that the PLO Central Council and Fatah's Central Committee did not approve the messages exchanged between Yitzhaq Rabin and brother Abu-'Ammar, the head of the Palestinian Authority, on the amendment of the Palestinian National Charter, because the Central Council took a vote on the Oslo agreement but not on the messages exchanged on amendment of the charter and cessation of the armed struggle. Al-Hasan added: Nabil Sha'th should not forget that the battle is against Yitzhaq Rabin not against Fatah's Central Committee.

Al-Hasan gave more details on the complications which led to the cancellation of the press conference which was scheduled to be held at the PNC building yesterday, Tuesday [23 August]. He said: Brother Abu-al-Adib (Salim al-Za'nun), the acting PNC speaker, insisted that permission should be sought from the Jordanian authorities to hold the conference...which led the participants to declare that "it is unreasonable that we should submit such an illogical request because that has not been the custom, and it is also inconceivable that we should request permission to talk inside the Palestinian Embassy building, for example."

Explaining these complications, al-Hasan added: I told al-Za'nun that he ought to be happy if in the PNC hall there was a conference by the opposition and in the next hall a conference by the supporters. That would enrich the Palestinian movement in these circumstances. But Salim al-Za'nun insisted on his position, which led to the cancellation of the press conference.

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has obtained a copy of the statement which was to be read out at the cancelled press conference regarding the renewed Israeli call for a PNC meeting to annul the Palestinian National Charter. The statement was signed by 171 prominent Palestinian figures including 82 PNC members. The statement cited the message addressed by PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and dated 9 September 1993, which 'Arafat read out at the White House ceremony on 13 September 1993, in which he said: "...The PLO confirms that the Palestinian National Charter's articles which deny Israel's right to exist and which are not in line with the commitments made in the Declaration of Principles, are invalid and void. The PLO pledges to submit to the PNC the necessary amendments to the National Charter for official approval." The statement also reviewed other assurances made by Yasir 'Arafat later on in this connection as well as statements made by Israeli officials expressing their determination to make 'Arafat carry out the commitments he made.

The statement pointed out that when fresh steps began toward convening a PNC session in occupied Gaza, consultations and contacts were held with the participation of a number of leaders and members of the PNC, the Palestine Central Council, and the Executive Committee, as well as prominent intellectuals, and, in the light of these consultations, it was decided to issue a statement reaffirming the invalidity of 'Arafat's commitments and emphasizing that all the agreements concluded by Yasir 'Arafat and his team were totally null and void and not binding on the Palestinian Arab

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people. The statement said that the contacts for the approval and signing of the statement covered all the factions of the Palestinian resistance movement represented in the PNC, including those that did and did not approve the resolutions passed by the PNC at its 19th extraordinary session in Algiers on 15 November 1988, and also the factions which did not attend that session; those contacted emphasized their rejection of any infringement of the Palestinian National Charter and their refusal to hold the PNC session in the Gaza "confine" or any of the autonomy confines, as well as their disapproval and condemnation of the Declaration of Principles agreement, "the Oslo agreement," and the subsequent results and agreements between Israel and 'Arafat's team. Some factions decided not to sign the statement for reasons linked to their political programs or for organizational reasons.

The statement also emphasized that in the PLO legislations there is no such post as "PLO chairman," and that it should be confirmed that Yasir 'Arafat's powers as chairman of the PLO Executive Committee are no longer valid because the Executive Committee stopped meeting for lack of quorum before the "autonomy authority" was formed, which means that 'Arafat has no right to exercise any of the powers or jurisdictions of the PLO Executive Committee. AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has also obtained a copy of a "statement" about Yasir 'Arafat's pledge, made in the joint statement issued by him and the Israeli prime minister on 7 July 1994, to summon the PNC to a meeting in Gaza to delete the articles on Zionism and Israel from the Palestinian National Charter.

It said that, in his message, Yasir 'Arafat said that the PLO confirms that the Palestinian National Charter's articles which deny Israel's right to exist and are not in line with the commitments "made in his message dated 9 September 1993," are invalid and void, and that the PLO promises to submit to the PNC the necessary amendments to the Palestinian National Charter for approval.

The statement added: "Taking into consideration the fact that in his reply message dated 9 September 1993, Yitzhaq Rabin only said that the Israeli Government decided to recognize the PLO as a representative of the Palestinian people and to begin negotiations with it in the context of the Middle East peace process..., and noting that Yasir 'Arafat deprived the PLO of its essence, we the signatories, consisting of PNC members and influential cultural, political, and economic figures, declare the following:

"1. The agreements concluded between Yasir 'Arafat and the Israeli Government, namely the Declaration of Principles agreement, the first Cairo agreement, the Paris economic agreement, and the second Cairo agreement, are totally and absolutely null and void and are not binding on the Palestinian Arab people.

"2. Yasir 'Arafat has no authority to make, in the name of the PLO, any of the commitments included in his abovementioned message. There is no Palestinian legislation empowering Yasir 'Arafat to make such commitments.

"3. As a matter of principle, the PNC should not meet under the security protection of the Israeli occupation authorities, because the Palestinian territories, including Gaza and Jericho, are still captive to the Israeli Government. The statement said the signatories oppose the holding of a PNC session under the protection of the Israeli authorities. They pointed out, for the benefit of the Palestinian people and the Arab nation, that Article 33 of the Palestinian National Charter stipulates that a special quorum is necessary for any PNC amendment of any article of the charter, stating that "this charter cannot be amended except by a two-thirds majority of the total number of the PLO's PNC members in a special session held for that purpose." [quotation marks as published]

In their statement, the signatories also pointed out that Yasir 'Arafat had no authority to introduce any amendments to the PNC membership, appoint PNC members, or change the membership which has existed since the PNC's 20th session, whether inside the occupied territory or in places of refuge and the diaspora.

The signatories reviewed some of the charter's articles included in the deletion promised by Yasir 'Arafat. They are: The definition articles 1-7 which emphasize that Palestine is the homeland of the Palestinian Arab people, that the Palestinian Arab people have a legitimate right to their homeland, and that the Palestinian identity is a genuine identity which does not disappear as a result of calamities and displacement.

Articles 8-18 which call the Palestinian people to struggle for the liberation of their homeland and to put aside their secondary conflicts and give priority to the main conflict with Zionism, and which urge national unity and pan-Arab mobilization for the fulfillment of the aims of the phase of struggle and national liberation, namely repatriation, self-determination, and national sovereignty.

Articles 20-26 which consider the Balfour Declaration and the mandate to be void and which consider Zionism to be a hostile, racist, aggressive, expansionist, and colonialist political movement. The signatories emphasized that if 'Arafat managed, by illegitimate means, to make the amendments he promised, there would be nothing left of the Palestinian National Charter's 33 articles except a few articles of a procedural nature.

The signatories pointed out that the Israeli Government is refusing to rescind the Israeli law annexing Jerusalem, refusing to stop its settlement activities, refusing to evict the Jewish settlers, refusing to respect the UN resolutions, and refusing to recognize the Palestinian Arab people's right to return to their homeland, determine their own fate, and build their own independent state.

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'Urayqat on Elections, Municipal Committee Formation

JN2508174394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1430 GMT 25 Aug 94

[Telephone interview with Sa'ib 'Urayqat, member of the Palestinian Authority, by radio correspondent Sa'id Mu'addi; place and date not given; from the "With the Events" program—recorded]

[Text] [Mu'addi] Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, member of the Palestinian Authority: After yesterday's signing of an agreement on the transfer of power in five fields, what is the next step?

['Urayqat] The next step is to discuss the geographical transfer of power. When we met with the Israeli delegation at Erez and in Alexandria, we submitted five working papers on elections. Regarding the way in which negotiations are held, we hope that instead of holding them in succession—such as discussing early empowerment and then later elections, redeployment, and revision of laws—we hope these will be discussed simultaneously. In other words, we hope that negotiations will be held on all these issues at the same time by separate committees, so we can hold general political elections no later than 15 December, as we suggested to the Israeli delegation.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Sa'ib: Have you received a reply from the Israeli side to the working paper on elections?

['Urayqat] We have not yet received any reply to five papers submitted to the Israelis. One of the papers pertains to the date of 15 December. Another paper deals with conducting a social survey on our part in the West Bank, including Jerusalem. Moreover, we have not yet received a reply regarding the population's records or to the two main papers on the council [not further identified] and its nature, structure, and concept. We have not received a reply to setting a date to negotiate these issues.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Sa'ib: On the domestic level, particularly Jericho, after Yasir 'Arafat accepted the resignation of Jericho Mayor Jamil Sabri Khalaf, what will happen next?

['Urayqat] Regarding this issue, we received a message from the political movements and the Jericho area residents. We also held discussions with all political movements, including the brothers in the Islamic Movement, the Fatah Movement, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the [Palestinian] People's Party, and FIDA [Palestinian Democratic Federation Party].

We reached a formula to set up a transitional municipal committee, which will officially assume power on Sunday, 28 August. This committee will be led by Hasan Salih al-Husayn. It includes as members Dr. 'Ali al-Husayni, Lawyer Jamal Mash'al, Lawyer Sa'ib Nazif, Nazih 'Amirah, Muhammad Husayn (? al-Fahd), Samir Jawhar, Akram Bakr, Sa'd Hajjaj, Victor al-Haltah, 'Abd Khashshan, Dr. Ahmad Mahmud al-Ju'bah, and Muhammad Haydar al-Qatrawi. All factions joined this transitional committee. God willing, the example of this committee will be followed by all municipalities and village councils in other Palestinian areas once our authority extends to these areas and once the Israeli side agrees on transferring the municipal powers to us.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, thank you very much.

['Urayqat] You are welcome.

'Arafat Approves Jericho Municipal Council

JN2508190294 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1415 GMT 25 Aug 94

[Text] President Yasir 'Arafat has approved the formation of a provisional municipal council in the city of Jericho. The provisional council is chaired by Hasan Salih al-Husayni and includes the following as members: Lawyer Sa'ib 'Ali Nazif, Victor Khalil al-Haltah, Lawyer Jamal Sulayman Mash'al, Nazih 'Ali 'Amirah, Samir Jawhar, 'Abd-al-Qadir Khashshan, Dr. 'Ali Khalil al-Husayni, Muhammad Haydar al-Qatrawi, Muhammad Husayn al-Fahd, Akram Jum'ah Bakr, Sa'd Hajjaj, and Dr. Ahmad Mahmud al-Ju'bah.

The inauguration of the new municipal council will take place at 1000 next Sunday [28 August], after which the minister of local government, Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, will hold a news conference at the municipality to speak about the duties assigned to the provisional council, which will be confined to two tasks: preparing for the municipal elections and laying the foundations and plans to administer the municipality in a manner that will alleviate the burdens of the people, meet their needs, and manage their affairs.

The minister of local government, Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, had earlier reached an agreement with the various Palestinian political forces, such as Fatah, the Islamic Resistance Movement-Hamas, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the Palestinian Democratic Federation, and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, to participate in the Jericho city provisional municipal council.

'Arafat has accepted the resignation of the Jericho Mayor, Jamil Sabri Khalaf, which took effect on 24 August.

'Arafat Meets Representatives of Released Prisoners

TA2608105194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 26 Aug 94

[Text] The representatives of the released Palestinian prisoners in Jericho met with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat in Gaza early this morning and discussed the harsh conditions under which the prisoners are living in Jericho.

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Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that 'Arafat promised the representatives that the release of all Palestinian prisoners from Israeli jails will be given top priority in the negotiations with Israel. 'Arafat also promised to help the prisoners receive permission to return to their homes.

Jibril al-Rujub, the head of the Palestinian security service in the West Bank, also participated in the meeting.

Orient House Officials Said Under Investigation

TA2608080294 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 26 Aug 94 p A1

[Report by Bill Hutman]

[Text] The PLO is investigating alleged embezzlement by organization officials operating out of Orient House in Jerusalem, Palestinian sources said.

Five officials, including a senior aide to the top PLO figure in the city, Faysal al-Husayni, are under investigation, the sources said.

PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat has asked Jibril al-Rujub, head of the Palestinian Protective Security Service, to personally oversee the internal probe, they said.

Some $5 million were taken over several years, according to one source. Another source, however, said the sum was smaller.

Salah al-Zuhayka, the newly appointed head of al-Husayni's office, categorically denied that PLO officials in Jerusalem are under investigation for embezzlement.

"It is all rumors and totally untrue. This is another example of false rumors being started by the enemies of Orient House," al-Zuhayka said last night, adding that the "enemies" could be either Israeli or Palestinian.

A Palestinian source, however, said that at least one PLO official in Jerusalem had already been "threatened" by al-Rujub's agents to pay back the money he took.

"Al-Rujub's people made it clear to him that it would be to his benefit to return the money," the source said.

The source said that over the past two weeks, several of the officials suspected of taking PLO money for their personal use were interrogated, but the investigation has yet to be completed.

In a related development, a senior military source confirmed yesterday that al-Rujub has been given a permit allowing him to travel freely in the territories and within the Green Line.

Palestinian sources said al-Rujub is using this freedom of movement to extend the operations of the Protective Security Service throughout Judaea, Samaria, and Jerusalem, despite the government's insistence this is forbidden.

The permit allows al-Rujub to leave Jericho, where he is based, whenever he wants and without giving the army prior notification, the military source said.

The permit was granted about a month ago, and remains in effect through the middle of next month, the source added.

Six 'Rioters' Injured by IDF in Nabulus

TA2508165994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 25 Aug 94

[Text] In Nabulus, six Palestinian rioters were seriously injured by IDF [Israel Defense Forces] troops who opened fire after being stoned. One of the demonstrators was arrested.

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Algeria

FIS' Haddam on Dialogue, U.S., French Policy

MM2308143094 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 21 Aug 94 p 10

[Interview with Anouar Haddam, head of the Algerian Islamic Salvation Front Parliamentary Mission Abroad, by Muhammad Sadiq in Washington on 18 August]

[Excerpts] [Sadiq] Recent U.S. official statements said that the U.S. and French positions on the Algerian crisis were not identical. How do you view these statements, and how do you assess the positions of Washington and Paris?

[Haddam] We believe that U.S. policy on Algeria is based on a more realistic outlook and is generally in line with the U.S. strategy of supporting regimes founded on legitimacy and the peoples' free choice. The Algerian question cannot be excluded. That was clear in the Senate's discussions of the Algerian question and especially in the interpolations of some senators. We have tried to convince the U.S. Administration of the dimensions of the Algerian issue and our people's right to choose their own political leadership. We also drew their attention to the fact that there could be no stability in the region so long as the regime continued to reject a serious political solution. Regarding France, the problem lies in some political circles which still want France to play the infamous role of imperialist power in the region.

[Sadiq] Do you believe that your presence in the United States will affect U.S.-French relations? And what is your comment on the reliable information emphasizing that you did seek political asylum in the United States?

[Haddam] Our presence in the United States is governed by the laws of the country, and our work is purely political and subject to the law. We see no problem there and we are anxious to respect the laws of our host countries. We have a right to express the hopes and pains of our people and to promote their just cause and expose the Algerian regime's arrogance and ugly methods. If France is renowned for being the country of human rights, then we have every right to ask the French political circles which blindly support the Algerian regime and the suppression of free Islamic voices on French soil, we have every right to ask them about human rights. Where are human rights and the right of people to choose their own political leadership?

[Sadiq] But you have not answered the second part of the question.

[Haddam] As regards our legal status here [in the United States] or in any European host country, we see that as a personal matter and I do not wish to talk about it.

[Sadiq] But that was stated by U.S. State Department officials and we would like your answer to that.

[Haddam] That is an issue which I would like to keep private. I see it as a private matter not a public matter. We really want to focus on the Algerian issue which we refuse to personalize or confine to certain individuals. That, in our view, is the least we can do for our people. So, I neither deny nor confirm what has been said but I consider it a private and personal matter. [passage omitted]

[Sadiq] There are those who maintain that the United States is now gambling on moderate Islamic trends not only in Algeria, but in the Middle East in general, and that it is now urging their participation in government. It is also said that the United States has its own special aims behind this, in that it wants to prepare the ground extensively for the reinforcement and success of the peace process in the long run. What do you think of that?

[Haddam] Realities in the Islamic world indicate the will for a change to regimes based on the culture, civilization, and choices of the region's peoples. The Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] would have liked that change to occur peacefully but the secular ideological minority rejected such change and drove the country into the present situation of social, political, economic, and security deterioration. Thank God, some political circles in Europe and America have begun to realize that, and are now preparing the atmosphere for peaceful coexistence with the Algerian Islamic state and the Islamic world.

As regards the U.S. aim of preparing the ground extensively for the reinforcement and success of the peace process, as you have mentioned, that is true. Really, the issue of the Middle East and of Palestine, the country that is dear to us, is, quite frankly, a very important and sensitive issue and we know that that is the focal point from which the Western states proceed in dealing with the Arab world. At our meetings with Western political circles, we said that if they really wanted durable stability and peace, they should first and above all help the peoples of the region to have regimes that really represent them because, in the short term, the status quo might be preserved and some dictatorial regimes supported to safeguard their [Western] interests in the region and protect the Jews, but there is an awakening and nobody can stop the wheel of history. What we did in Algeria could be an example of how this awakening, renaissance, and change, which we wanted to be a peaceful change, should be treated. That would subsequently produce regimes in harmony with their peoples and representing the people who would in turn respect their decisions.

[Sadiq] Those who understand the Algerian situation say that Algeria is not the shah's Iran and that those who had wagered on a split in the Army have so far failed. Does the FIS still expect an army split, after which it would assume power?

[Haddam] The FIS never wagered on an army split in Algeria. All it wants from the army is that it side with the people and defend their free choice and constitutional

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institutions. The FIS is still urging the Army to do that. The Algerian Army springs from the very essence of the people, and the regime knows that. That is why all the terrorist operations against the people and their mujahidin are assigned to the special forces which are trained in isolation from the army. The FIS still calls on the army to honor its constitutional pledge and save the people. [passage omitted]

[Sadiq] The Afghan Mojahedin really fell into the trap and we can now see what is happening in that country. There are real fears that Algeria might become a second Afghanistan. Do you believe such fears are justified?

[Haddam] The regime is trying to plunge Algeria into a situation similar to what happened to our brothers in Afghanistan. We, God willing and thanks to the efforts of our leadership at home, the leadership which is still inside the country and living its realities—that leadership has been doing its best to avoid such fears and risks. [passage omitted]

[Sadiq] Let us go back to the U.S. position. You sound confident that the regime is about to fall, but Washington, as indicated in statements by U.S. senior officials, does not believe that the regime is about to fall and it supports the regime's political and economic reform process, and urges the regime to expand the circle of dialogue to include all parties which renounce terrorism. What is your opinion?

[Haddam] Speaking of progress in Algeria without fulfilling legitimacy in government and without building strong constitutional institutions to protect the Algerian people under the rule of law is one of the regime's excesses and worn-out dreams.

Regarding those in some—and thank God not all—U.S. political circles who said that, they did so on the basis of short-term interests, and they want to keep the situation as it is. But, thank God, there are now some considerable forces in the policymaking arenas in the United States and some European states such as Italy, Britain, and Spain who have begun to think about their long-term interests. There is an undeniable awakening in the Islamic world.

[Sadiq] When you meet with U.S. officials, in what capacity do you do that and what do you discuss with them?

[Haddam] Such contacts are preparatory contacts and are a part of the tasks assigned to us, as a parliamentary mission, by the National Executive Bureau. Naturally, because of the nature of the current regime and its supporter France, which is doing everything it can to block what we are doing, and in order not to cause embarrassment and to let matters proceed normally, it is preferable not to talk much about this matter. That is part of our mission. When I meet with U.S. officials, I do so in my capacity as head of the parliamentary mission of an elected party.

[Sadiq] And what answers do you hear from them to what you suggest and ask?

[Haddam] We get understanding there. Because of the current lawless [allaqanuni] international situation following the collapse of the Soviet Union and the communist camp, the U.S. foreign policy theorists are still confused. That is why the current administration has frequently been accused of taking stands and then abandoning them, and so on. But in our contacts, we concentrate on the Congress because it is a somewhat independent institution, and thank God, those concerned with foreign affairs in the Congress are very understanding. We understand their reluctance to talk frankly and freely about their positions at the State Department, and we understand the fact that they do not officially state their positions, which we respect.

That is as far as the United States is concerned. In Europe, in such states as Britain and Spain, they are beginning to talk about their positions. [passage omitted]

[Sadiq] What do you have to say about the claims about a split in the FIS and about your support for or your joining the Armed Islamic Group [GIA], and the claims that you support those who have dissolved it [the FIS] such as Abdelrazzak Rajjam and Mohamed Saeed?

[Haddam] Those people want to stop and suppress the FIS abroad. That is why they made up these scenarios and propaganda. Most regrettably, some of our young people fell hastily into that trap, perhaps because they were out of touch with what was going on in the country, they thought that the unification of the mujahidin on 13 May 1994 in their chosen framework of the GIA meant dissolution of the FIS, but that is not true. I repeat, it is not true at all. The FIS has not been dissolved and nobody can dissolve it. It is still a political party. All there is to it is that the FIS leadership at home has every right to work for the unity of ranks of the mujahidin to avoid the mistakes committed in some Islamic states.

[Sadiq] Could you be specific about the young people who you say fell into the trap? Could you give us an example?

[Haddam] I refuse to answer that, but I will say this: We are still in FIS and, naturally, that even includes Cheik Ahmed Zaoui, member of the National Shura Council and the elected parliament, who has been sentenced to death in Algeria and who has sought political asylum in Belgium. Very regrettably, we received a report yesterday (Wednesday) [17 August] that, because of the misunderstanding that occurred, the Belgian authorities accused him of abandoning the FIS and joining a military organization and therefore denied him political asylum and requested his deportation to France. We regret that decision and wish to explain the situation to the political asylum authorities in Belgium. Cheik Ahmed Zaoui and your humble servant (Haddam) are still members of FIS' foreign mission which I head. We were not in the past and are not today members of any military organization.

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[Sadiq] Your words are clear but it has been claimed that you support the GIA. If that is true, do you not believe that by supporting armed extremist groups, you might force Washington to reconsider the question of your residence?

[Haddam] We have been clear on this matter. We have said that the FIS has a right to work for the mujahidin's unity of ranks and that it has blessed the mujahidin unity of ranks which occurred in its chosen framework, the GIA framework. The claims made about that group only prove its strength in the field. Let us not forget the charges made against the National Liberation Front [FLN] in 1954 and 1962 claiming that it was a group of terrorists. What we are demanding is our people's right to defend their rights and their choice. Our people are still willing to accept any political solution. All we ask of the international community is to suggest to us a solution that would allow the restoration of the people's choice. But to be asked to abandon our people, that is out of the question. And we have said that we are against the use of terrorism to assume power.

[Sadiq] But as you know, Washington has its own concept and definition of terrorism. Here they consider the GIA to be a terrorist and extremist group, and you support it. Is it not possible that Washington could reconsider the question of your residence here?

[Haddam] All we did was explain our position in accordance with what we had already declared, namely that we respect the laws of the country. And, frankly, thank God that the powers in the U.S. system—and we hope there are no exceptions—the three powers are really independent. So long as we respect the law of the land, we should have no problem even if we disagree with the U.S. Administration on some political points, something to which we and they are entitled.

[Sadiq] Do you not believe that, by embracing you, the Americans might exploit you to spite France? And are you Algeria's Khomeyni here?

[Haddam] God forbid. The FIS is based on God's book and the teaching of the prophet, may God's blessings and peace be upon him. We would never accept an alternative to God's Shari'ah and book and the prophet's teachings. We say it most proudly, we are nothing but the mouthpiece of our leadership at home. We are here to reflect the decisions, hopes, and suffering of the Algerian people. Also, we are not in the lap of the United States. We have rights and duties. We fulfill our duties and demand our rights. [passage omitted]

[Sadiq] On the question of the dialogue which the Algerian Government has sought to resume and which is expected to begin this coming Sunday, have you been invited to the dialogue?

[Haddam] According to what we received from the Provisional National Executive Bureau, the question of dialogue has never been of the magnified level presented by the media and is merely a series of maneuvers to gain time.

[Sadiq] Have you been invited?

[Haddam] Naturally, we have not been invited and we did not and do not expect an invitation. Our position in the FIS, and I am talking about the FIS, the position of the FIS is clear. Hence, the conditions we made.

[Sadiq] What does the FIS want from the dialogue? What do you want?

[Haddam] The FIS dmands have not changed. The putschists should officially announce the following:

1. An end to the use of terrorism to remain in power.

2. Acceptance of the following points for serious negotiations: Acknowledgement that political power should stem from the people's choice; separation of the legislative, judicial, and executive powers; respect for the constitutional institutions, and especially the republican institution and the army institution; preservation of the Army's unity and keeping it out of political affairs; respect for the unity and sovereignty of the national soil.

We still call on the regime, as tangible evidence of its seriousness about finding a political solution to the crisis in Algeria, to, among other things: stop the terrorist operations of the special forces, release all the detainees, foremost among them Cheik Abbassi Madani and Cheik Ali Belhadj, and recognize the FIS as a political party and recognize the results of the municipal and parliamentary elections.

[Sadiq] These are known demands. There is nothing new in them but the dialogue is entering a new phase, so what is your initiative?

[Haddam] As far as we are concerned, there is no dialogue in Algeria. There is nothing new.

[Sadiq] So you do not want a dialogue with the regime.

[Haddam] We want a serious dialogue. [passage omitted]

[Sadiq] The Hamas [Islamic Society] Movement, which is headed by Mahfoud Nahnah, is said to represent the moderate Islamic trend in Algeria and its leaders are professional politicians. You see the movement and its leaders as renegades. So, today you are fighting the regime as well as Islamic trends and movements which are supposed to give you some depth and be your allies, at least at this stage. Do you not believe that your policy toward them is wrong?

[Haddam] First of all, there is no truth in your question. Our aim is clear, namely to support our people and uphold their right to choose their political authority. Therefore, the political and the military people in the Islamic ranks, each from his own position, work for the

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overthrow of the current regime. From the very beginning, our arrows were, are, and will be aimed at the regime. We have no time for such talk. It is nothing but unfounded propaganda.

[Sadiq] What are the differences between you and Rabeh Kebir?

[Haddam] I will not answer that question.

[Sadiq] Is it a personal or a political disagreement?

[Haddam] I refuse to answer that question.

[Sadiq] Is there coordination and cooperation between FIS and the Tunisian Ennahda Movement, particularly in the wake of the arrest of members of the two fronts in Madrid recently?

[Haddam] I have not heard about that. We have enough concerns in our country and preoccupation with Algeria. As I said, this is our experiment and we wish our brothers throughout the world would take this experiment seriously and live the realities of their own people and interact with their own people. Our preoccupation is the salvation of our people from their current plight.

[Sadiq] The GIA has issued a statement threatening to burn down the schools and to stop the education process. Where is the logic in that and what is the political objective? How could such a thing come from those who claim to defend the people and their rights?

[Haddam] First of all, as the head of a parliamentary mission of a political party with no organizational link with any armed organization inside the country, I have no right to interpret the GIA's statements but I do have a right to talk about what goes on in the country, and that is what we are doing these days, namely coordinating with human rights organizations and some journalists so they can go to the country and see with their own eyes.

What happened is that some schools were burned down. The question is, where were these schools located and who was the target. These schools were in popular quarters known for their respect for the mujahidin. As far as we are concerned, they were burned down by the regime.

That is what happened. I have no right to comment on what is behind that statement but I do believe that Algeria is in a state of war declared by the regime and that those carrying out the jihad are young people.

[Sadiq] Never mind who was behind the statement. As an FIS leader, what is your comment on such threats?

[Haddam] We do not know what their intention was. Algeria is in a state of war and, as mujahidin, they know better the legitimate means of continuing the war at the lowest cost.

President Issues Statement on Dialogue

LD2508224494 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 25 Aug 94

[Text] The new round of national dialogue between Liamine Zeroual, the head of state, and five political parties that responded to the invitation he issued to eight political parties consisted of two sessions of talks marked by frank and in-depth discussions, according to statements by the authorities and the parties taking part. The latest round was concluded yesterday, 24 August, and all parties agreed to meet again on 5 September in order to give another chance to the parties that boycotted the two meetings to reconsider their stances.

Following yesterday's meeting, the presidency of state issued a statement this evening in which the head of state confirmed the continuity of contacts with the parties that have been invited and did not take part in the round of dialogue. He also reiterated that the door is still open to parties wishing to contact officials of the dissolved party [Islamic Salvation Front, FIS]. The following is a reading of the full text of the statement:

As had been agreed, President Liamine Zeroual last Sunday, 24 August [date as heard], met representatives of the five political parties that responded to his invitation to resume the national dialogue. These were the National Liberation Front [FLN], the Party of Algerian Renewal, the Movement for Democracy in Algeria, Ennahda Movement, and Hamas Movement.

In his preliminary statement, the text of which was published, the head of state expressed satisfaction at the spirit of responsibility shown by the parties during previous meetings and expressed his hope that other parties that have not yet joined the dialogue will come forward and take part. He said that contacts will continue with them. The head of state recalled the elements he had proposed to political parties during previous meetings regarding the framework and constants that would guide the dialogue and to which the political parties have responded and which the dissolved party is expected to meet in order to be able to join the table of dialogue as wished for by some parties and the state itself. He also reiterated his encouragement for parties that wish to meet the leaders of the dissolved party who are imprisoned, the state's position regarding human rights, the freedom of political activities, the use of the media, and the rejection of any foreign interference.

President Zeroual again recalled the state's will to give the parties a share and a role in the institutions of the transitional period including the government and in preparing a schedule for the elections. He finally gave an overview on the proposed agenda of the meeting which was, this time, put in writing, and expressed the hope that dialogue would continue until an agreement on all the points on the agenda is reached.

The head of state urged every party to express their views about all these issues and about any other issue they regard as important in order to ensure the progress of the dialogue.

Wednesday's debate dealt with the following issues:

The question of the parties that have been invited and those that have not attended. President Liamine Zeroual

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briefed the groups that were present that there was contact on 22 August between the Presidency and the Socialist Forces Front [FFS], which has declared that it will examine the statement on the day of its publication. However, the FFS stressed on the evening of that same day its refusal to participate in the dialogue.

The head of state pointed out that it has been decided to hold contacts with the Rally for Culture and Democracy and the Ettahadi Movement soon.

The head of state said that he intends to continue his endeavors with these three parties in order to bring them to the dialogue table. He urged the parties that were present to make moves in that direction.

After stressing that the agreement aspired for will be prepared patiently and thoroughly, President Zeroual added that the exceptional conditions in the country and the importance of the issues to be discussed within the framework of the dialogue require the presence of all those concerned.

Information Submitted to the Parties: In response to a request by the political parties, the head of state submitted a briefing on the repercussions of terrorism and violence since they have emerged. The briefing highlighted the heavy toll of human losses among innocent people from all strata and classes and the damage suffered by the economic and social infrastructure. President Zeroual stressed that the toll clearly indicates that the Algerian people and their achievements have been the target of terrorism. Thus, he appealed to everyone to unite efforts in order to end this state of affairs.

In response to a request by the political parties, the head of state handed them copies of the documents submitted by Messrs. 'Ali Djeddi and Abdelkader Boukhamkham [FIS leaders] to the other leaders of the dissolved party whom they had visited in Blida prison. It is worth noting that Djeddi and Boukhamkham have confirmed to officials of the parties that they met that they have indeed been released with the authorization of their comrades, who are under arrest in order to work for preparing the appropriate conditions and stopping the violence.

Claims that abuses have occurred: The political parties once again touched upon claims that abuses have occurred, and the head of state reaffirmed to them his strict adherence to the respect of human rights, and he asked them to present evidence which, if available, will lead to the taking of the necessary measures. President Zeroual added that the question was very serious for repeated affirmations not to be backed up by facts.

The dialogue agenda: As announced in his opening statement, the head of state proposed to the political parties a draft agenda for the dialogue. The document says: During the meetings held on 21 August, the head of state affirmed that he preferred the dialogue agenda be proposed by the political parties that discuss it together, and this position was reaffirmed. During the debates and at the request of some parties, the head of state proposed an overall view of an agenda that would be discussed and enriched. This proposal was made in writing in order to deepen the debate on an agenda and to prepare it together.

Here is Zeroual's proposal for an agenda.

Halting violence: In this respect, the point at issue is to tackle the various necessary measures to halt violence in our country, to establish security, stability, and civil peace which constitute necessary conditions for the success of the transitional stage and for organizing the elections.

Conducting the transitional stage: The inevitability of a transitional stage is a matter acceptable to all the political parties, and so is the necessity to conduct this stage with the participation of all. The state confirms this determination. Therefore, the point at issue is to agree on a way to associate the political parties with the legislative body, all the more since the latter will have to revise the laws on elections, and with the government. The proposals of the political parties on this participation are expected.

Proceedings of and organizing elections: Elections are the objective of the transitional stage, which will be reduced to the minimum duration allowed by the necessary conditions for free and democratic elections. The issue is therefore to reach an agreement on fixing a calendar for the elections with an agreement on the necessary conditions for the elections. This draft project is proposed in order to promote the debate on an agenda, and on fixing the agenda with the agreement of all the parties participating in the dialogue. The political parties did not object as to the usefulness of this proposal, and some parties stressed that it was substantially in agreement with a gradual approach to resolve the crisis. Other parties said they had enrichments that they would introduce into this document. However, the position of the parties centered on the need, first and foremost, to talk about the conditions that must be made available to guarantee the success of the dialogue. The head of state did not object to the idea of a debate on this suggestion.

The question of the conditions liable to guarantee the success of the dialogue: In noting the views put forward by the political parties on the aforementioned conditions, which principally centered on the factors of inspiring trust and calm, the presence of the political parties invited to the dialogue and the absent parties, participation of the dissolved party [FIS] in the dialogue, the head of state asked the political parties to put forward their viewpoints on the issue of violence and the conditions that the dissolved party must observe in order to be able to take part in the dialogue. Concerning violence, the various presentations made by the parties present indicated that the parties that adopt legality consider that violence is unacceptable. There has been also an exchange of views on the second issue tabled by the head of state. [FIS' participation]

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In this context, President Zeroual recalled the state's commitment to the promotion of the national dialogue. He also recalled the frameworks and the constants of the dialogue which dictated themselves on everyone, as long as these issues were not considered as party political options.

Respecting the Constitution and laws, rejecting violence and commitment to democracy, pluralism and alternation of authority through elections are conditions which are impossible to breach.

The head of state stressed again that he did not have any objection to contacts by the political parties, if they so wish, with the officials of the dissolved party, who are in detention to discuss this issue with them.

Freedom of action and use of the media: The political parties mentioned the above issue during the discussions. Emphasizing again the freedom of political action and the use of the media by legitimate groups, the head of state took the opportunity to provide them with significant facts.

During the period from January until August 1994, the four state-owned newspapers and the Algerian Press Service published a total of 127 statements by officials of political parties. For its part, during the same period, national television covered 80 various political marches and 12 news conferences by the parties. Meanwhile, the head of state asked the political parties to make use of the guaranteed freedom of action and communication to make efforts to stop the violence, and that that contribution was a national and political responsibility of the parties. In view of the serious repercussions of violence on the country and the people, the parties have to bear that responsibility by making efforts to end the violence and to state that it is essentially in breach of the true principles and values of Islam.

Continuation of the dialogue: The parties present confirmed that discussions on 21 and 24 August provided new information and clarifications to analyze the state of the country and establish constructive means to find a way out of the crisis. They concluded that it is indispensable to give the parties a short respite to allow their leaderships to think deeply and allow for some political consultations. The head of state considered the proposal as fruitful and agreed to it.

The head of state made the following final statement before adjourning the session:

I believe that today's meeting allowed us to complete our information and points of view and you do now have a very accurate idea on the realities of the crisis our country is experiencing. You also have a very clear idea of the authorities' intentions. I do agree with the idea of the need for a short respite to allow every party to hold consultations with its bodies and the parties to consult each other. We will, of course, keep in touch.

For our part, we will continue contacts with the parties that we invited and who did not take part in the dialogue. I encourage you to contact them and reiterate to you that the door is open for parties who wish to contact officials of the dissolved party. We will also continue to inform the public on the progress of the dialogue. I suggest to you that we meet again on 5 September to continue our work.

All parties agreed to this date. That is the end of the presidential statement.

Egypt

President Mubarak Returns From Visit to Geneva

NC2408155494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1510 GMT 24 Aug 94

[Excerpt] Cairo, 24 Aug (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has returned to the homeland after a visit to Geneva, during which he met with United Arab Emirates President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, who is currently in Geneva. President Mubarak also met with Jordanian Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali. [passage omitted]

Musa on Israel Visit, ICO Meeting in Pakistan

NC2508152294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1355 GMT 25 Aug 94

[Text] Cairo, 25 Aug (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stated that he will hold talks on the peace process and ways to promote it with Israeli officials during his two-day visit to Tel Aviv, which will begin on Tuesday [30 August].

Regarding the convening of an emergency meeting of the Islamic foreign ministers in Pakistan on 6 and 7 September, Musa told journalists today that he had informed the Pakistani foreign minister that Egypt believes this meeting should be postponed as the date coincides with the International Conference on Population and Development. He added that he had held talks with the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] secretary general and a number of ICO foreign ministers regarding the date of the meeting.

Musa emphasized that while Egypt appreciates the importance of the subjects to be discussed at the meeting, particularly on Bosnia- Herzegovina and the problem of Kashmir, it believes that the Islamic foreign ministers' meeting could be held at any other time. He pointed out that he had found the Pakistani foreign minister determined to hold this emergency meeting on the date set by Pakistan. He added that if the meeting is held on that date, Egypt will be represented at the conference by the assistant foreign minister. He noted that the quorum for the meeting has not been reached.

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Foreign Minister Musa Comments on ICPD Issues

NC2608113394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1015 GMT 26 Aug 94

[Text] Cairo, 26 Aug (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has affirmed that Egypt has been notified by several heads of state and foreign ministers of their intention to attend the International Conference on Population and Development [ICPD], which will be opened by President Husni Mubarak on 5 September.

In a statement today, the foreign minister said that Egypt has also been told that U.S. Vice President Al Gore will attend the conference.

He added that President Mubarak will hold talks with heads of delegations on the sidelines of the conference. The talks will deal with international issues and relations between Egypt and these states. 'Amr Musa noted that the document to be issued by the ICPD will be ratified after in-depth discussions and in light of specific proposals by various countries to amend it. However, we cannot predict the contents of the document, Musa added.

The foreign minister said that the document will be in the form of a final statement that will take into consideration any reservations held by some countries. The important point in this statement will concern the means to reconcile population size and the requirements of development.

In his statement, the foreign minister denied the presence of plots or maneuvers behind the ICPD. He said that issues related to the environment, births, social development, and human rights will be raised for discussion by various world cultures. He stressed that the states will study and determine the best means of serving mankind and achieving development in future generations. 'Amr Musa said that these issues will be discussed in a democratic atmosphere.

The foreign minister said that Egypt's stance is clear and has been reiterated by President Mubarak. Our stand emanates from our culture and religion and the values of this society. We cannot impose our values on anyone and, similarly, no one can impose his values on us.

The foreign minister said Egypt will have its stand and opinion reflected in the final declaration of the conference.

Assistant Foreign Minister al-Safti Views ICPD

NC2408103594 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 18 Aug 94 pp 2, 6

[Interview with Ambassador Muhammad 'Adil al-Safti, assistant foreign minister for international cooperation and multilateral relations, by AL-JUMHURIYAH editorial staff led by Muhammad Abu-al- Hadid; place and date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [AL-JUMHURIYAH] Are reports that the International Conference on Population and Development [ICPD] was imposed on Egypt true?

[Al-Safti] The ICPD was not imposed on Egypt. [passage omitted]

Egypt asked to host the conference in Cairo based on a request from the United Nations. Some 20 other countries also submitted applications. The United Nations formed a delegation to visit these countries and investigate the possibility of their hosting a conference of this size based on particular objective criteria. The criteria were the capabilities of the country to provide the necessary facilities, absorb the participants, and provide residences, transport, and means of communication. They also investigated the extent of political and social stability and security in each country.

Only three countries met the standard. A list of finalists was drawn up and Egypt came first. Egypt won for many reasons.

First, Egypt met the necessary requirements for holding the conference and it headed the list of qualifying countries.

Second, Egypt is an Arab and African country. Africa has not hosted the conference before.

Third, every country feels a special sentiment toward Egypt, appreciating its current international status. The decision to choose Egypt was unanimous; even the countries bidding to hold the conference approved the choice.

The selection process was not easy. It took three years. [passage omitted]

[AL-JUMHURIYAH] Could there be some form of control on or review of the agenda as some sides want, especially as it seems that there are numerous issues of conflict? What could be done in this area?

[Al-Safti] We expect no control over or change in the agenda. There might be some changes to the topics and texts presented to the conference.

The agenda, as you said, has 16 chapters, which will be split in two. Each part will be discussed by a subcommittee. There is a chance that the subcommittees will review the language and formulation of the document. [passage omitted]

[AL-JUMHURIYAH] There are fears that financial aid will be tied to conditions that impair the sovereignty of the countries or their traditions if they do not accept the recommendations, which is what happened at previous conferences such as the environment conference and the human rights conference.

[Al-Safti] Regarding rumors of certain opinions being imposed on various countries, I do not believe it will happen. If one reads the first chapter of the document,

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regarding the issue of principles, there is the following quote: Because the United Nations acknowledges that population policies and their implementation are the responsibility of each country, the varied economic, social, environmental, and political circumstances of each country should be taken into consideration.

The United Nations accepts the fact that the population policies and their implementation are the responsibility of the countries concerned. Not only that, but the various social, economic, cultural, and political circumstances of each country should be taken into consideration. Therefore, no country is compelled to apply particular policies. If anything, the countries are urged to take into consideration their political, cultural, and social circumstances, and so on.

What I wish to clarify here, and what I wish to add, is that there are no UN resolutions—with the exception of the Security Council resolutions based on Chapter VII of the UN Charter—that force countries to apply them. Even the UN General Assembly resolutions are called recommendations. Every country has to take from among these recommendations that which is in keeping with its local laws and policies and which applies to its social problems. Here, we mean the social bases that are found in every country, including religion, for example. The United Nations cannot force a person or a state to apply policies or resolutions that go against the divine religions.

[AL-JUMHURIYAH] You said that there are still some issues on which there are differences. Although you have spoken about them before, what are these issues? Are they fabricated, or are they just issues that need to be reviewed?

[Al-Safti] The differences over some of the issues are fabricated. But some other issues certainly require examination. I believe that some of the issues that the media have recently been discussing are exaggerated. I am not talking about the extremists outside Egypt, but about those who have paid for advertisements in which they compare the conference to Nazi behavior. This is a comparison that does not merit respect, particularly since the most prominent group that published such advertisements is funded by a foreign person whose background and name are known in the international media. He left prison in January of last year after he was sentenced to 15 years on charges for falsification, embezzlement, and cheating. He served five of the 15 years. Unfortunately, his statements to the foreign press have been quoted by some Egyptians in referring to the conference. Is this supposed to be a trusted and confirmed source?

[AL-JUMHURIYAH] Let us go back to some of the issues that are being raised in the newspapers regarding the conference and which have upset many men on the street in Egypt. The most important issue is whether the conference document supports or encourages abortion.

[Al-Safti] Before I respond to that, I would like to read to you that part of the document on abortion. It says: Governments must take the appropriate steps to help women avoid abortions. Abortions must not be encouraged in any way as a family planning method. Governments must also, wherever possible, provide methods for humanitarian aid and must offer guidance to the women who resort to abortion.

Do you see anything in this quote that sanctions abortion? The document urges avoiding abortion and rejects its encouragement as a means for family planning. This is stated in clear and simple expressions.

Abortion is banned by Egyptian law, for example. Whoever has an abortion in this country is considered a law breaker. She will be questioned by the police for her actions. But, does this mean we cannot rescue her from death or treat her in case she needs help?

This is what the document is saying. It is saying that a woman who has violated the law and committed an act that is punishable by the law should, nevertheless, receive medical and health care. After that, she can be tried by the law. This is a legal right of even criminals sentenced to death.

However, the basic principle of the document is that abortion must be avoided and that it is not considered a method of family planning. Therefore, whoever claims that the document sanctions abortion has not read it properly.

[AL-JUMHURIYAH] There are also some who claim that the document sanctions sexual perversion.

[Al-Safti] I challenge anyone to show me one quote in the document that sanctions homosexuality. Moreover, what is the use of the passage I quoted above, that every country has the right to the regulations appropriate for itself according to its values and religion? For example, if one country sanctions homosexuality, can it, or does it have the right, to impose it on other countries?

[AL-JUMHURIYAH] It has been reported that some homosexuals who are part of the nongovernmental organizations [NGO's] delegations will organize a demonstration in Cairo during the conference. Will they be allowed to demonstrate or to put up their posters and cover the billboards inside the conference hall, as happened at the United Nations?

[Al-Safti] Regarding the demonstration, we shall not allow any person to diverge from our traditions and values. We will prevent such behavior; there can be no discussion on this point. There is a difference between expressing one's opinion—every person will be allowed to express his opinion at the conference only. [sentence as published] We will not allow anyone to put up posters that violate Egyptian values, even inside the conference halls. We have informed all participants, as well as the United Nations, of this law. We have published a pamphlet on this in which we state that we will not deal

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lightly with things that violate Egypt's values. I wish to note here that the NGO's participating in the conference are legal organizations in their countries. They are also recognized by the United Nations. If some homosexuals have actually infiltrated these organizations as members, how can we stop them? Assuming one of the members of the official delegations is a homosexual, how will you know that, and more importantly, how can you stop him? [passage omitted]

[AL-JUMHURIYAH] What are the points to which Egypt objects?

[Al-Safti] I believe that the issues to which Egypt objects do not exceed 0.5 percent of all the points the document addresses. Most objections are to the language used in the phrasing about sexual relations.

Let us go back to the disputed points. There are objections to giving young people access to sex education. The document indeed calls for giving youth access to sex education through schools and the media. Personally, I believe that this issue has been studied exhaustively. Educational programs all over the world provide sex education to children, young people, adolescents, and all age groups.

[AL-JUMHURIYAH] It is reported that some of the document's recommendations were rejected at previous conferences and that there is an attempt to pass them at the Cairo conference.

[Al-Safti] This is not true. But, as I said before, some sections need modification. Why? Because they go a little beyond earlier documents. The most important of these previous documents were two that were issued at the recent conferences in Bucharest and Mexico. The Mexico conference was under the U.S. Administration's control at the time. That administration was too fanatical and strict in these matters. That is why the conference did not produce much.

The Cairo document undoubtedly goes a little farther than the Mexico conference. Some of the points addressed in that document are very good, like the recognition of developing states' right to obtain additional resources for development. [passage omitted]

Population Minister Views ICPD Goals

NC2408132994 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 24 Aug 94

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa today met Dr. Mahir Mahran, minister of state for population and family affairs. During the meeting they discussed all issues pertaining to the International Conference for Population and Development [ICPD], which President Husni Mubarak will open on 5 September.

Dr. Mahran said the ICPD is the largest international gathering in Cairo, that it has major and noble goals, and that convening the conference in Egypt is an honor for it. He noted that the ICPD will discuss the major issues facing the international community that were previously discussed at African and Arab conferences. He noted that the United Nations has compiled all the proposals that will be set out at the conference and that every state has absolute freedom to present its views on these proposals. He noted that there is nothing to bind any state to approve all the recommendations that will be passed by the ICPD.

Dr. Mahran said the al-Azhar grand shaykh has highlighted Islam's views of particular issues but has not commented on all the clauses of the ICPD document. He noted that what the al-Azhar shaykh has said is in line with the position adopted by the government and numerous Islamic countries. He said the Egyptian delegation previously showed reservations about these points and remarked that outside circles prompted the raising of issues in a sensational way. He noted that Egypt is a democracy in which freedom of views is ensured. He said the world is looking to Cairo and that over 3,000 people will cover the conference, which will chart a plan for the next 20 years. He said the objective of the conference is to solve the problems of Man and the family, which we must safeguard.

Muslim Brotherhood Issues Statement on ICPD

NC2508155394 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 23 Aug 94 p 6

[Statement issued by the Muslim Brotherhood on the ICPD; place and date not given]

[Text] The third ICPD [International Conference of Population and Development] round is meeting in Cairo amid major opposition from the advocates of faiths and religions of the whole world, foremost of which are the al-Azhar, the Islamic World League, the al-Azhar Ulema Front, the Egyptian church, and the Vatican, who oppose the program slated to be ratified at this conference. The Muslim Brotherhood wants to explain to the whole world its views of the conference and of the proposed program.

1. The Muslim Brotherhood strongly supports the al-Azhar stance as stated in the statement released by the Islamic Research Council and published in AL-AHRAM on 11 August, which decided the following:

—The abortion of an embryo is absolutely prohibited;
—The family is the source of peace and compassion;
—Islam does not allow any sexual relations outside legal marriage and imposes the harshest sanctions against fornication and homosexuality.

The Muslim Brotherhood demands that the Islamic countries' governments respond to the recommendations outlined in this statement so that thorough discussions can be held to explain all shari'ah, moral, and social views on controversial issues.

The Muslim Brotherhood rejects ratification of the document in its current form and has reservations about some of its clauses, because the idea on which the entire

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proposed program was built is nonreligious, rejects the principle of belief in God and the Judgment Day, and is opposed to ethical obligations as preached by all divine religions and to normal human instincts. In addition, releasing the document in Cairo and calling it the Cairo Declaration, with its blatant contradictions of the shari'ah and ethics, would misrepresent and deceive the Islamic nation and endanger Egypt's Islamic status.

2. This conference and previous international conferences on the environment and human rights provide a good opportunity for dialogues among world civilizations, particularly those that have large populations and are influential in world history. However, this conference imposes one civilization—that is, the Western materialistic civilization with its culture and values—on all mankind, linking economic aid for peoples around the world to their compliance with the charters imposed at these conferences by the United States and the West. The Muslim Brotherhood welcomes a serious and constructive dialogue with all parties, particularly the followers of divine religions with whom we agree on the origins of faith in God and the Judgment Day—a dialogue free and equal and aimed at arriving at the truth and enhancing cooperation for the good of all mankind within the framework of respect and appreciation.

3. The Muslim Brotherhood emphasizes that the real problem facing the Third World peoples in particular is political, economic, and social development. Population growth would not have posed a danger had development followed a normal course. Several factors, however, caused a low development rate, even as low as zero, in numerous countries. Foremost of these factors are:

Political despotism, rife financial and ethical corruption, lack of confidence between governments and peoples, absence of a climate favorable to investment, and the continuous looting of natural resources since the beginning of Western military occupation.

Addressing the problems resulting from the declining development rate, including the population problem, can only be successful if the root causes of the problem are addressed.

4. The Muslim Brotherhood declares that the population problem in Egypt is nothing more than the result of the misdistribution of population, who are concentrated in the narrow valley. This is the result of the failure of the government's policies in encouraging investments, as proved by the accumulation of Egyptians' savings in banks in and outside Egypt. The population problem will not be solved by imposing population policies that have caused the poor to increase and the rich to shrink, not to mention the caused increase in poverty, unemployment, the deterioration in services and utilities, and the decline in available job opportunities.

5. The unity of the Islamic nation and the integration among its peoples and countries should be the rule. If fragmentation has been imposed on them, restoration of unity is the goal that we must vigorously endeavor to attain. Under such integration, the population problem would be reconsidered and would not be a burden to speak of.

In conclusion, the Muslim Brotherhood declares its absolute and firm rejection of all points contained in the conference document that conflict with all heavenly messages, including permitting sexual relations among adolescents, homosexuality, using abortion as a family planning method, attempting to destroy the family as the pillar and nucleus of society, and providing family planning methods for teenagers. God Almighty says: "Kill not your children for fear of want: We shall provide sustenance for them as well as for you." [Koranic verse] He also says: "Kill not your children on a plea of want; We provide sustenance for you and for them." [Koranic verse]

The Muslim Brotherhood reiterates its position in support of the rights of women and children under the Islamic shari'ah without prejudicing the categorical rules related to inheritance and relations between spouses. The Muslim Brotherhood will remain loyal to the Islamic creed, trustworthy about the call of Islam and its propagation to the entire people, and active in seeking the implementation of the Islamic shari'ah. It propagates God Almighty's call through wisdom, good advise, and positive argument.

May God spare Egypt the evil intended for it, safeguard al-Azhar, guide the ulema of Islam to teach it to the people, and lead those in charge of the affairs of the Islamic peoples to work by the book of God, the tradition of His Prophet, to abide by the shari'ah as a method and in their conduct, and to reject whatever may disagree or conflict with it.

We stress the need of the Egyptian delegation to abide by President Mubarak's declaration rejecting everything that runs contrary to Islam in the conference document. Egypt, God willing, will remain the bastion of Islam. We call upon the delegations of the Islamic states to follow the same position, which is in line with our Islamic and religious constants. God is great and praise be to Him.

Signed: The Muslim Brotherhood

Article Says ICPD Result of CIA, Zionist Plan

NC2608074794 Cairo AL-AHRAR in Arabic 14 Aug 94 p 3

[Article by Salah Mahmud: "The Secrets of the U.S. Role in the Population Conference; Clinton Repays Homosexuals by Legalizing Them Through This Conference; the Zionist Lobby Is Behind the Conference in Cairo."]

[Text] This is the first time that a conference has caused such an uproar. The UN International Conference on Population and Development [ICPD] has faced more opposition than any other conference. Never before has the world rallied as it rallying now in opposition. But the

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conference will be held and its recommendations will be implemented for no other reason than that the United States, at Israel's suggestion, wants this to happen. Governments must obey and implement. The recommendations of an earlier conference in Mexico in 1984 were not implemented because the United States did not then have an urgent wish, as it does now, to implement them.

The Secret of the Conference

The theme and idea for the conference began in 1989 based on a study carried out by a U.S. research center on the recommendation of the CIA. The study concluded that population increase in Third World countries constituted a major threat to the rich countries' future and encouraged higher rates of emigration to them. Noting the strategic importance of population, the study warned of the seriousness of Arab population growth, particularly in Egypt, where the birth rate reached record levels despite a poor economy. The study referred to the threat that this population increase poses Israel and emphasized the need to halt, at any price, this growing population around it.

The Zionist lobby began putting pressure on the U.S. Administration but former President George Bush's administration was preoccupied with more pressing issues and paid no attention to the Zionist request. The Zionist lobby turned for help to U.S. presidential candidate and Arkansas Governor Bill Clinton and actually struck a deal with him according to which he would get the votes of U.S. Jews in return for organizing an international conference to limit the population growth of Arabs and Muslims in particular and Third World countries in general so that it would not appear as a fanatical conference with a narrow outlook.

After Clinton won the election he had to fulfill his promise to the Zionists. Clinton's advisers pondered the issue and found an opportunity to kill two birds with one stone. They came up with a hellish idea to fulfill two electoral promises, limiting the population growth of Arabs and Muslims and legalizing homosexuality. Clinton declared his commitment to giving full rights to homosexuals including admitting them to the U.S. Army and legalizing them. The United States then asked the United Nations to call for an international conference on population along the lines of the 1984 Mexico conference. The request included the addition of some clauses providing greater personal liberty such as allowing alternative families, providing freedom of abortion, legalizing homosexuality on the grounds that it is an untreatable psychological orientation, limiting population growth as much as possible, and forcing conference participants to implement its recommendations either via incentives or by intimidation.

The United States then decided to be generous to the countries willing to implement the conference recommendations by increasing aid to them and at the same time letting the IMF pressure those who refuse.

The United Nations began advocating this conference and, contrary to the custom of U.S. Presidents, Clinton began advocating it too.

No sooner had the secret clauses of the conference leaked from the United Nations' corridors than media uproar emerged in civilized countries.

The Pope's Statement

But Pope John Paul II proclaimed his rejection of the conference and made his famous statement to the world in which he asserted that the population explosion is a lie disseminated by a conglomerate of industrialists manufacturing sterilizers and contraceptives and that is controlled by a multinetwork global organization.

The pope warned the Christian world not to be drawn toward birth control and calls for family planning because population experts assert that implementing these measures will harm nations' social makeup, increase the number of old people, and decrease the number of young. And he noted that the increasing death rate and low birth rate in Italy would cause the Italian nation to become extinct.

Soon after this statement was publicized the U.S. President contacted the pope and tried to convince him that he did not intend to sanction abortion as a method of birth control, but to turn it into an issue of personal choice. So a woman can resort to abortion when she believes it is necessary. The pope was not convinced by what Clinton said, especially as Clinton expressed his frank opinion on sanctioning abortion during his election campaign. This was not the first clash between Clinton and the pope over the Cairo conference. Earlier the pope refused to visit Clinton at the White House on a visit to Washington.

When Clinton announced that the subject of the alternative family was listed on the conference working paper, he lost the Catholic vote for good. Catholic priests in the United States, headed by William Keller of Baltimore, issued a statement in which they condemned Clinton's ideology and accused him of following a policy that goes against the teaching of Christianity. The priests confirmed their opposition to abortion and the homosexual family at the upcoming Cairo conference.

Sharp Criticism

The pope was not satisfied with issuing a statement on the Cairo conference. He attacked the conference during prayer and strongly defended the legitimate family and a child's right to life. He clarified that abortion is a clear case of murder and that allowing homosexuals to legally establish families is pure defiance of God's will and the laws of nature.

He also attacked Clinton's decision, which allows continuing experimentation with the drug RU 486, which terminates a pregnancy hours after conception.

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Demonstrations Against Clinton

During the U.S. President's recent visit to Italy to participate in the first meeting of the seven industrial states, the Italians received him with angry demonstrations and threw stones and eggs at his convoy. The pope refused to leave his office to receive him in protest at his decision sanctioning abortion.

Italy Attacks the Conference

In Italy everyone raised their voices calling for canceling the conference and described it as a crime against humanity.

Antonio Guidi, Italian minister of family and social affairs and head of the Italian delegation to the conference, affirmed that Italy's stance is close to the Vatican's, if not more extreme, and that his country will support the Vatican's stance. He added that many countries reject the recommendations of the conference.

The Italian minister said: This conference defies us. Abortion is murder in the full sense of the word. He said the conference is another form of occupation of the Third World. The rich countries are trying to impose a way of life and mode of thinking. This is a tragedy, because the poor nations need help and the conference is stripping them of life by imposing birth control and abortion. Any new child is a resource and whoever denies this understands nothing. Must we also deny them their resources?

The Italian population minister wondered what right we have to strip the life of a potential child. The minister stressed that Italy will not participate in this conspiracy. He warned that Italy's attendance at the conference does not mean it is participating in it. It will attend as an observer and to try to thwart this conspiracy.

Court Renews Lawyer's Remand for 45 More Days

NC2508164994 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 22 Aug 94 p 1

[Report by Najwa 'Abd-al-'Aziz]

[Text] Counselor 'Abd-al-Sami' Sharaf-al-Din, attorney at the Higher State Security Prosecution Office, yesterday decided to renew the remand of Muntasir al-Zayyat, lawyer for the Islamic groups, for 45 more days pending investigations. The prosecution charged al-Zayyat with joining a group that calls for obstructing the implementation of the provisions of the Constitution and the public laws, resisting authorities, harming national unity and social peace, and possessing publications and documents inciting this conduct.

The attorney general has urged faster transcribing of the 45 tape recordings of al-Zayyat spanning a period of several months, as well as other tapes, including recordings of his contacts with leading extremists in Egypt and abroad. The investigations conducted by prosecutors Usamah Qandil and Hani Burham have proved al-Zayyat's involvement in extremist activity.

Rights Group Urges Release

NC2508161794 Paris AFP in English 1457 GMT 25 Aug 94

[Text] Cairo, Aug 25 (AFP)—An Egyptian rights group on Thursday called for the release of a defense lawyer charged with belonging to the outlawed al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah (Islamic group), saying his arrest had violated civil rights.

The Egyptian Organisation of Human Rights (EOHR) "appeals to the prosecutor general to secure the release of Montasir al-Zayyat," a statement faxed to AFP said.

The statement criticized the circumstances leading to al-Zayyat's arrest, which involved "bugging his office and home telephones for over one year—gravely violating his right to privacy, exposing the confidential information of his clients."

Al-Zayyat, the main defense lawyer for suspected Muslim militants, was arrested along with 37 colleagues after a May rally protesting the death of another lawyer while in police custody.

The other lawyers were released about five weeks later, but al- Zayyat remained in custody and was charged on Sunday with belonging to the Muslim militant group.

Membership of an outlawed extremist group is punishable in Egypt with up to five years' imprisonment under the terms of an anti-terrorist law adopted in 1992.

Al-Zayyat's arrest set a precedent the statement said, "threatening activist lawyers engaged in the defence of political suspects."

The EOHR said it "cannot be considered a crime" to inform groups of human rights violations in Egypt, and added al-Zayyat's detention was against the Egyptian constitution guaranteeing freedom of opinion and expression.

It also violated a UN resolution permitting lawyers to defend their clients "without intimidation, obstruction or harassment," and to meet them without being "held liable for the acts or cases of their clients," the statement said.

Al-Zayyat is known for his fiery attacks against the Egyptian government during his defense.

He was one of a group of leading Muslim scholars who tried in vain to mediate between the government and the militants to stop two years of violence that has left more than 400 dead.

The Muslim militants launched a campaign in March 1992 to topple the secular government of President Husni Mubarak.

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U.S. Policy on Iraqi-Turkish Pipeline Termed 'Odd'

NC2308133194 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 18 Aug 94 p 9

[Editorial: "Baghdad and Negotiations"]

[Text] The Jordanian information minister's recent statements in which he noted that Iraq could play a role in the issues being discussed in the "multilateral" negotiations have caused violent reactions in Baghdad, which regards these statements as interference in its internal affairs. This has created tension between the two sides.

This coincided with the announcement that Iraq and Turkey are to lodge "an appeal" to the United Nations to solve the problem of the closed oil pipeline between the oil fields in Karkuk (north Iraq) and the Turkish outlet on the Mediterranean Sea. The pipeline was closed on 7 August 1990, trapping 12 million barrels of oil to this day. The oil is threatening to erode the pipeline and this is causing a major problem for both sides.

Despite the mood of optimism that prevailed in the past, the recent Iraqi statements have caused the U.S. Administration to stiffen its stance again and to voice its opposition to any action that will ease the sanctions imposed on Iraq at this particular time until a peace agreement is reached between Syria and Israel.

This is an odd position on the part of the United States.

We believe that the issue of the Iraqi-Turkish oil pipeline should not be mixed with the issue of the multilateral negotiations, despite our complete acceptance of the general framework that brings these two issues together, as this would weaken the ongoing peace process in the region.

Paper Criticizes Sudan's 'Provocative Acts'

NC2608093494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0605 GMT 26 Aug 94

[Text] Cairo, 26 Aug (MENA)—The newspaper AL-AHRAM today condemned Sudanese authorities' recent provocative acts, including cutting off water, electricity, and phone lines from the Egyptian Embassy headquarters in Khartoum and the residence of the Egyptian consul general in the Sudanese capital, as well as occupying Egyptian installations and molesting Egyptian diplomats without cause. It described these acts as clear indications of the collapse of al-Bashir's regime.

The newspaper said in a statement published in today's issue that the Sudanese regime, which has had crisis after crisis strike it from all sides, is trying to instigate any kind of conflict with Egypt. Its objective is to divert the attention of the Sudanese people from its ever-increasing internal problems. In addition, this regime not only commits these stupidities against Egypt alone, but against most of its neighbors as well.

AL-AHRAM clarified that the regime in Sudan is now facing a dilemma after events exposed its responsibility for harboring the international terrorist Carlos and trying to benefit from his terrorist experiences. A responsible Sudanese source admitted that Carlos had been present in Khartoum since August 1993.

The paper said that despite the fact that the same responsible Sudanese source was trying to deny the al-Bashir-al-Turabi regime's collusion with Carlos, his confessions have confirmed beyond the shadow of a doubt that this conspiratorial regime had known Carlos was in Sudan since December 1993. He was taken at that time, according to the Sudanese source, to police headquarters and detained for three days.

The newspaper affirmed that it is a clear and incontrovertible fact that the Sudanese regime supports terrorism against Egypt and that its continuous provocations against Egyptian interests in Sudan always increase when crises close in on it.

It noted the Sudanese regime's inability to pay the salaries of Sudanese teachers regularly, which is arranged through the budgets of local councils and not through the central government's budget. This point exposes the state of the Sudanese budget, which is on the verge of bankruptcy despite funding from Iran and other countries for conspiring against Egypt and Egyptian interests.

The newspaper concluded its comment by saying: God help the fraternal Sudanese people, who have a very special place in the hearts of the Egyptian people.

Paper Expects Progress on Syrian, Lebanese Tracks

NC2508204794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1951 GMT 25 Aug 94

[Text] Cairo, 24 Aug (MENA)—The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH affirms that Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa's visit to Israel next Tuesday [30 August] aims to boost the peace process following the major progress achieved on the Palestinian-Israeli track illustrated by the signing of an agreement for the early transfer of powers to the Palestinians in the West Bank.

In an editorial in Friday's issue, the paper says that Egyptian diplomacy has been active on all levels to establish a comprehensive and just peace between the Arabs and Israel and at the same time restore effective and sound inter-Arab solidarity.

Following the remarkable rapidity in trust-building measures between the Palestinians and the Israelis, the paper expects "good news" on the Lebanese and Syrian tracks, despite official Lebanese denials of the proposal attributed to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin regarding an Israeli withdrawal from south Lebanon in nine months.

AL-JUMHURIYAH explains that it will not be strange if U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher carries

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good news about the Lebanese and Syrian tracks when he visits the region in mid- September. This good news, the paper says, will give fresh impetus to the entire peace operation.

The newspaper stresses that all the parties wish to reach a comprehensive and just peace, rid themselves of the legacy of the past, and devote their resources to a better future.

'Islamic Militants' Kill Tourist, Wound 3 in South

NC2608110494 Paris AFP in English 1036 GMT 26 Aug 94

[Text] Cairo, Aug 26 (AFP)—Suspected Islamic militants shot dead a 14-year-old Spanish tourist and wounded three other people in an attack on a mini-bus in southern Egypt on Friday, police said.

They said two other Spaniards were among the wounded, along with their Egyptian tour guide.

Four gunmen opened fire on the mini-bus on the road from Luxor to Suhaj, near Naj' Hamadi, almost 600 kilometres (360 miles) south of the capital, the police said. The bus was carrying 11 tourists.

Report Warns Against Salafis' Activities, Teachings

NC2008095794 Cairo AL-'ARABI in Arabic 15 Aug 94 pp 1, 10

[Report by Khalid Salah and 'Abd-al-Fattah 'Abd-al-Mun'im]

[Text] A security report issued by a high-ranking independent party has criticized the relations between the State Security Investigations Department and some Islamic groups in Egypt. The report described the so-called "Salafis" as "spoiled" by the state security departments throughout the period of conflict with the violent groups, represented by the al-Jihad Group and the Islamic Group, despite the fact that the Salafiyah Movement, which is described by political Islam experts as moderate, is one of the most important distributors of "extremist" books and propaganda.

The report affirmed that the state security officials in Cairo and the governorates have been asking the members of the violent groups to join the Salafiyah Movement. They described it as a calm and objective movement. The report believes that this description is far from accurate and that it should not be viewed from this perspective. "The leaders of the Salafiyah Movement are still entertaining certain ideas that help spread concepts of violence," it said.

The report said that the security leaders are lax with Salafis who are arrested. In fact, they released these members when a Salafiyah Movement leader contacted the Security Department.

The report contained a detailed list of the most important leaders, symbols, and cadres and how they are distributed throughout the governorates. One of the most important among them is Shaykh Muhammad Isma'il from Alexandria, who is considered to be one of the most important intellectuals in this group.

In this regard, the report affirmed that Shaykh Isma'il has relations with the hardline ulemas in Saudi Arabia. His followers rely on the fatwas of these ulemas. They also distribute cassettes with recordings of their sermons and fatwas.

One of the most important persons in Cairo, according to the report, is 'Abd-al-Fattah al-Zayni, who is based in the al-Talibiyah quarter in the al-Haram District. He owns a huge religious library where he publishes and sells books. He was arrested many times between 1981 and 1986.

The report noted al-Zayni's role in establishing what is commonly known as the Salafiyah School in al-Talibiyah in which leaders from all districts lecture, particularly shaykhs from Alexandria since they are the central sources of reference for the movement.

One of the most important idols of the movement in Cairo, as the report says, is a shaykh called Usamah al-Qawsi. He is active in Shubra and was detained once in 1988 for one month.

Among their active members is Shaykh Usamah 'Abd-al-'Azim, who operates in the district of al-Imam al-Shafi'i. He holds views that are independent of the Salafiyah School in Alexandria and works in a completely independent way. He rejects any relations with the other cadres. According to the report, the majority of these leaders have strong relations with ulemas in Saudi Arabia, particularly with the more hardline among them, such as the two shaykhs Sifir al-Hawali and Salih Bin-'Uthaymin. They also have strong relations with some wealthy Saudis who finance the printing of some books that the members of the movement in Egypt read.

The report persists in referring to the Salafiyah Movement as a trend rather than a group [al-jama'ah]. The report ruled out the presence of any obvious organizational links. Every shaykh in this movement heads a certain mosque and supervises the education of a group of members. In addition, most of these shaykhs have licenses to teach and issue fatwas from a number of authorized shaykhs in Saudi Arabia. The report notes that a large number of repentant terrorists have joined the activities of the Salafis, which the report believes is the beginning of a new round of violence after a stage of secrecy under pressure from the current security campaigns.

However, the report did not demand a large-scale security confrontation with the movement. It recommended that supervision of the members be tightened and that their activities and the spread of their ideas should be

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watched. The report recommended that the al- Azhar ulemas and preachers effectively confront the ideas of the Salafiyah Movement and discuss the books the members are reading and studying, which are known as the "Salafiyah schools of thought."

New Pakistani Envoy Presents Credentials to Musa

NC2408133394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1246 GMT 24 Aug 94

[Text] Cairo, 24 Aug (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa today received a copy of the credentials of Mansur Alam, who is Pakistan's new ambassador in Cairo. Musa and the Pakistani ambassador discussed ways to consolidate Egyptian-Pakistani relations in every field.

Assembly Speaker Returns From South Africa, Singapore

NC2108101594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0800 GMT 21 Aug 94

[Text] Cairo, 21 Aug (MENA)—People's Assembly Speaker Dr. Ahmad Fathi Surur returned to Cairo this morning after a visit to South Africa during which he discussed bolstering and developing parliamentary relations between the two countries. He was also nominated to chair the International Parliamentary Union.

Dr. Surur had made a similar visit to Singapore and the Philippines within the framework of efforts exerted to bolster parliamentary relations between Egypt and these countries.

Wafd Party Secretary General Ibrahim Faraj Dies

NC1908202594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1940 GMT 19 Aug 94

[Excerpt] Cairo, 19 Aug (MENA)—Ibrahim Faraj, the Wafd Party's secretary general, died in Samannud in al-Gharbiyah Governorate today. He was 91.

Faraj occupied several ministerial posts prior to the [1952] July revolution, including minister for Sudanese affairs, minister for urban and rural affairs, and acting foreign minister. He was also one of three members of a Wafd Party delegation that negotiated the British forces' evacuation from Egypt. [passage omitted]

Libya

Clinton, U.S. 'Campaign Against Iran' Viewed

LD2508212294 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 25 Aug 94

[Commentary by JANA political affairs editor]

[Text] The U.S. President has launched a campaign against Iran, accusing it of sponsoring what he termed as terrorism. In an address to members of a Jewish organization in the United States, he said that Iran's behavior is intolerable and urged U.S. allies to be aware of what he called the nature of Iranian objectives.

The political affairs editor of JANA made the following comment on the U.S. president's statement:

What should be said about America, if Iran is like that. America is exercising organized official terrorism against small peoples and interferes in their internal affairs. The U.S. President is well aware that real terrorism is practised by his government, whether directly or by supporting it. The most glaring proof is its support and backing for the terrorism of the Israelis and the coverup of their state terrorist crimes, which they are exercising against the Palestinian people in occupied Palestine.

America's terrorism against the peoples of Haiti, Cuba, North Korea, and other countries, and threats of military invasion against peoples is more proof of U.S. hostile intentions against the peoples of the world who refuse to compromise their freedom and dignity.

Paper Views U.S. 'Lockerbie Calculations'

LD2508181294 Tripoli JANA in English 1637 GMT 25 Aug 94

[Text] Hannibal [August] 25 Jamahiriyah News Agency—"AL SHAMS" said that the hostility of the West towards the Arabs was nothing new but was [words indistinct] this vital strategic area, the Arab world to prevent its development and to contain it.

In an article published under the heading "Lockerbie Calculations", "AL SHAMS" said "this had been the case with the Vandals and the Romans and then the crusades and onwards to the current colonialist campaign by the Zionists. In light of this, the Arab nation, which is bound together by Islam is the strategic enemy incomparable even to the communist threat of yesterday. Unfortunately, by failing to achieve unity the Arabs helped the West to achieve its [word indistinct] particularly since the division which started in 1961 and the defeat of 1967, as well as the defeats suffered since Camp David and then the Gaza-Jericho first accord, which dealt a blow to both the Palestinian and the Arab national cause. Thus, after WWII, in affirmation of the West's control of the world's resources, the Arab factor stood out in world strategies.

So, what are the calculations and plots which led to the Lockerbie incident? Well, there [words indistinct] several, but here we might be able to put forward questions whose answers will shed some light on this matter. Can a centre for initiative against this liquidation be formed? Is it possible to let the Arabs be aware of the futility of capitulation, [word indistinct], there is a free Arab country which is calling for unity and rejecting capitulationist solutions. Is it possible to avoid penalising an Arab party known for its hostility to imperialism?

Therefore, it is now possible to place the Lockerbie issue in its proper context and to refrain from believing

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Western propaganda namely that it involves two persons accused of involvement in a civilian airliner [words indistinct].

"AL SHAMS" said that Western and American calculations were well known and so, can't cover them up with mere allegations. The important question is what are they as compared our calculations? Or rather, what is our plan to confront this? Without doubt, the first thing to do is to stress that Western hostility to the Al-Fatih revolution is not new. What is new, however, is the determination of the United States to impose negotiations to solve international problems, specifically, the Palestinian problem yet does not [word indistinct] UN resolutions to be enforced except on the condition that they negotiate with the historical enemy of the Arabs as well as imposing preconditions.

However, in the case of the problem with the great Jamahiriya, negotiations are impermissable and there is a determination to ensure that there are no contacts with Britain and the United States. And that the great Jamahiriya is depicted as a cause of instability, a threat to peace and a source of terrorism. So, what does this mean? Can anyone deal with those who act in this way?

The answer to all the [word indistinct] are embodied in American policy for more than a decade, whether enacted under the Republican or the Democratic parties. There is a persistent attempt to stifle the Jamahiri system and label it a genuine threat. So, the Gulf of Sidra, al Rabitah and the 1986 attack are all precursors to the Lockerbie incident.

International developments helped the United States to use the Security Council for its own ends under the false guise of "international legitimacy." In light of this, we cannot be blamed but we should be capable of meeting the challenges we are facing. Reality means that, on this occasion of the 25th anniversary of the revolution, we should reassess our calculations carefully and clearly set out our policy on the national, pan Arab and international levels to prevent any intervention. [words indistinct] Libyan people will realise its former glories which won't be any less glorious than the brave struggle against the fascist Italians. We shouldn't wait for the mercy of the Zionists, who are heady with victory.

Algerian Minister Visits, Meets al-Qadhdhafi

LD2508195894 Tripoli JANA in English 1802 GMT 25 Aug 94

[Text] Tripoli, Hannibal [August] 25, Jamahiriyah News Agency—Mohamed Achoubi, the minister of labour and social security in sisterly Algeria, made a visit last night to the residence of the leader of the revolution [al-Qadhdhafi] where he saw for himself the impact of the foiled American NATO barbaric aggression on the great Jamahiriya.

The Algerian minister wrote a comment in the visitors book condemning this barbaric [word indistinct] and said that such vandalism is a testimony for the savagery and ruthlessness of the imperialists whose target is to undermine the Arab nation.

Medical, Technical Assistance Offered to Algeria

LD2508192194 Tripoli JANA in English 1809 GMT 25 Aug 94

[Text] Tripoli, Hannibal [August] 25, Jamahiriyah News Agency—The sources of the national relief commission in the great Jamahiriya indicated that an urgent medical and technical assistance is being offered to sisterly Algeria in contribution by the [word indistinct] Libyan people towards alieviating the damages caused by the earthquake which hit a number of areas in sisterly Algeria recently.

The sources added that the assistance is [words indistinct] on its way to sisterly Algeria.

Morocco

Tariq 'Aziz Leaves After Giving Message to King

LD1908132994 Rabat MAP in English 1228 GMT 19 Aug 94

[Text] Casablanca, Aug. 19 (MAP)—Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi vice-prime minister and envoy of President Saddam Husayn, left Morocco Thursday [18 August] after a visit to the Kingdom during which he conveyed to King Hassan II a verbal message from President Saddam Husayn.

Upon his arrival over the week-end in Morocco, the Iraqi envoy told media the message deals with bilateral relations and with his country's relations with the U.N. Security Council.

Sudan

Al-Turabi on 'Carlos,' FIS, Israel, Islam

BR2508153194 Paris LE NOUVEL OBSERVATEUR in French 25-31 Aug 94 pp 34-35

[Interview with spiritual leader Hasan al-Turabi by Olivier Rolin in Khartoum; date not given: "'Our Islam for the Entire Earth'"—first paragraph is LE NOUVEL OBSERVATEUR introduction]

[Text] The spiritual leader of Sudan's Muslims, one of the Islamic world's most influential thinkers, declares that he wants to make his religion triumph throughout the world. By persuasion only, not by violence. How so, not by violence? Does he clearly condemn the murders committed by the FIS [Islamic Salvation Front] in Algeria? No. Does he disapprove of the "fatwah" [religious edict] issued against Salman Rushdie? No. Does he accept the existence of the State of Israel—as do most of the Arab states at present? No. This man who aspires to play the role of strategist and to rally Islam received

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Olivier Rolin in his Khartoum office. He presented his conception of an "open" Islam.

[Rolin] How would you define your role, your influence on the one hand in Sudan and more widely in the Islamic world?

[Al-Turabi] Unfortunately, most people think in terms of conspiracy and people who pull the strings behind the scenes. Therefore, they think that someone (laughter) must be behind the Islamic system in Sudan. In truth, it is a phenomenon of renaissance, which is nowadays crossing through the entire Islamic world, and is going beyond social or intellectual levels to reach the state level. It is a cultural trend which has different names throughout the Muslim world. Even here in Sudan the Islamic National Front is not exactly a party. You know, there are social groups, charitable organizations, Sufi orders, all interested in the foundation of an Islamic state. For example, the liberation of women is an Islamic social movement: Now they are free and they are found in government, public services, the Army, the police.

[Rolin] It is claimed that, in compensation for handing over Carlos, France is helping the Khartoum government in its struggle against those whom it considers the southern rebels.

[Al-Turabi] That is completely false. France has done nothing to help Sudan regarding the southern provinces. It has provided neither information, nor weapons, nor any aid via other states in the region; France is not present in Uganda, Kenya, or Zaire...

[Rolin] And what about the Central African Republic?

[Al-Turabi] No. No Sudanese soldiers have passed through Central African territory. What has happened is that France wanted Carlos to be handed over immediately. Sudan replied that it did not want to do so, it preferred to expel him from its territory. We were not interested in all the propaganda, which could develop round this affair. And France knows that any attempt to force Sudan to do something provokes the opposite reaction. But when Carlos refused to leave, Sudan said: OK, take him.

[Rolin] What do you think of U.S. accusations that Sudan houses terrorist groups?

[Al-Turabi] That is completely untrue. We have said to the U.S. Government: Give us proof. They have never done so. I have no doubt about the fact that the United States helped Carlos enter Sudan in order to produce him one day, as proof. (laughter) But that failed. That is why they are not so pleased about what has happened.

[Rolin] How can you find it legitimate and democratic to establish an Islamic state in a country where 20 percent of the population are not Muslims?

[Al-Turabi] If I was only a democrat, I would say: Simply because the majority thinks that way. Is 51 percent not enough? (laughter) But I also say it is because Islam is the freest and most tolerant of religions. It opens greater possibilities of freedom that those offered by European laws. And we think that the religion of the Europeans is not rational. They believe in God but they want to confine him to a church or the mosque. But if there is a God, he must be visible wherever I go: in the market, government offices, the fields, the army, laboratories, science, art. Your conception is not Christian: It is a late development of European Christianity. (laughter)

[Rolin] But you know, since you are well acquainted with our countries and history, that in Europe, and especially in France, our civil, political, and other liberties were conquered against the religious authorities?

[Al-Turabi] Yes, but unfortunately the religious authorities, under the Ancien Regime, was the enemy of freedom and allied to the nobility. But the same thing does not happen in Islam. There is no contradiction between art and religion, science and religion, the economy and religion.

[Rolin] What do you think of this declaration by the governor of Omdurman province, made in the presence of the president of the Republic on the occasion of the commemoration of the birth of the Prophet. I quote: "The orientation of Islamic civilization is leading us to establish an Islamic state in Sudan and throughout the entire world"? Do you not find that it has a rather imperialist tone?

[Al-Turabi] No, because we are not going to do that to exploit the world or enslave people. Muslims are neither imperialistic or nationalistic. We are not closed. We have values in our civilization which we wish to spread throughout the entire world. But not by force. We want the entire world to become Islamic. I want to convert all French people to Islam. Not by force, not by war. By speaking to them, via the media, lectures, my books. Here, now, in Sudan, we are in the process of establishing a model not just for the Sudanese, but for the entire world, because now humanity is one.

[Rolin] I would ask you to reply to the following question as precisely as possible: Do you condemn the attacks made in Algeria by extremist groups against Algerian intellectuals and against foreigners?

[Al-Turabi] I do not use the word "condemnation" under the pretext that I do not have the same opinion. If you have a dialogue with me, you cannot say: "I condemn you" (laughter).

[Rolin] Yes, if I speak with you, but if I seek to kill you? After all, that is not the same thing?

[Al-Turabi] I want to speak with them, establish a dialogue between them and the French Government, to promote peace. So if I condemn them, then tomorrow they will no longer speak with me. That would be stupid.

[Rolin] Now you are expressing a diplomatic point of view, not an ethical point of view. From a moral point of view, do you condemn these attacks?

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[Al-Turabi] I do not use the word condemnation. If I was in Algeria and the government was persecuting me, a government which receives billions and billions in financing from France, I would think that France is guilty of supporting these persecutors, this terrorist government, and I could attack France in any way whatsoever. But ultimately, I do not think it is correct to kill an ordinary Frenchman who is visiting the country.

[Rolin] What about Algerian intellectuals?

[Al-Turabi] It seems to me that the Algerian Government has allies and agents among them.

[Rolin] Do you think that France is now betting on the FIS?

[Al-Turabi] France pushed Algeria toward democracy. But when they saw that the FIS was going to win the elections, there was a coup. And many people, including people in Europe, very important people, think that in fact it was France which instigated the coup, that it said to the army: Abort this child, because it will be an Islamic state.

[Rolin] So you think that France had such a large influence on the Algerian Army and authorities?

[Al-Turabi] Yes, of course, it has a large influence. Therefore, I think that the FIS is very irritated against France, which in its eyes is behind the interruption of the democratic process.

[Rolin] What do you think of the agreements between the PLO and Israel?

[Al-Turabi] You know, Yasir 'Arafat is a friend. We met when we were students in Prague. We were in the Students Union, you know, these organizations controlled by the Communists (laughter). Since then we have met and spoken regularly. He was in a desperate situation. He has lost the support of Palestinian society to Hamas and he has lost the support of the Arab governments, which want to negotiate bilaterally. He has no financial or political support. He even lost European support, under the pressure of the United States which is close to the Zionist movement. So he accepted anything. Poor man...

[Rolin] You think it is a defeat for him?

[Al-Turabi] Of course. When you are trapped, you accept any compromise whatsoever. The Arabs are unanimous in saying: No Israel. Israel is not a democratic phenomenon. It is an example of usurpation.

[Rolin] Therefore you do not accept the very existence of the State of Israel?

[Al-Turabi] How can you accept that people occupy your country, drive you out, and then say it is an accomplished fact? You left Algeria, why? I do not question the existence of Jews, but of Israel, yes. The Jews are free to go anywhere, and the Muslims accepted them when they were persecuted in Europe. (laughter)

[Rolin] Your religious knowledge is recognized, and on the other hand you support the establishment of states based on a strict reading of the Koran. Therefore I am going to allow myself to ask you to interpret some verses from the Koran which would seem to entail serious political consequences. For example, this one: V, Verse 5: "Oh you who believe! Do not take Jews and Christians as friends."

[Al-Turabi] No, it is not as friends that they must be rejected, but as political allies. For example, choosing the United States against Sudan, if you are the guardian of Islam like Saudi Arabia (laughter). It is a poor translation.

[Rolin] Do you condemn the fatwah which recommends the murder of Salman Rushdie to every Muslim?

[Al-Turabi] I do not condemn other people's opinions.

[Rolin] It is not a straightforward opinion. Millions of Muslims throughout the world are encouraged to kill a man. It is a homicidal opinion.

[Al-Turabi] I do not condemn opinions.

[Rolin] Even if there is a danger that they could lead to the death of a man?

[Al-Turabi] Absolutely. Everyone is free to his own opinions.

[Rolin] Rewards have been offered to the eventual murderers and even doubled.

[Al-Turabi] Not by Khomeini.

[Rolin] By the Iranian Government.

[Al-Turabi] That is different. Khomeini did not put up a dollar for that (laughter). I do not like to condemn. There is often anti-Islamic propaganda in the press, in your magazine even, which I read from time to time. But I do not say: "I condemn your magazine." (laughter)

[Rolin] What about this absurd hypothesis: Suppose that instead of Carlos, Rushdie was discovered in Khartoum. What should Sudan do in your view?

[Al-Turabi] He could not be condemned here.

[Rolin] He should be extradited to Iran?

[Al-Turabi] No. Not necessarily to Iran. But he should be expelled from Sudan, yes.

[Rolin] You would not be in favor of killing him?

[Al-Turabi] No. There are Sudanese who are Communists and do not believe in God. No one is condemned to death for that.

[Rolin] Excuse me for repeating myself, but once again from your point of view, namely that of an Islamic state,

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then the strict text, the letter of the teaching of the Prophet can and should have political consequences. So how do you interpret verses such as this one, for example: IV, Verse 89: "Kill them (unbelievers) wherever you find them"?

[Al-Turabi] Kill who?

[Rolin] Unbelievers.

[Al-Turabi] But in this case the people involved were those who had abandoned the Prophet at Medina to join the people of Mecca. All that was involved was knowing if one could kill them in battle. That was all. (laughter)

[Rolin] Do you think that women have the same rights as men?

[Al-Turabi] Yes, absolutely.

[Rolin] But many verses say that "God gave a preeminence to man."

[Al-Turabi] No, no. In the family. In the family the husband is like the president.

[Rolin] And what about this verse (IV, 34): "Admonish those whose infidelity you fear. Put them in separate rooms and hit them?" Or again: "Call four witnesses whom you choose against those of your wives who have committed a shameful action. If they bear witness: Lock up the guilty ones until their death, in houses, unless God offers them a means of salvation" (IV, 15)?

[Al-Turabi] No, no, no. This is not addressed to the husband but to society. That is obvious. In the West women appear to be free but often they are used commercially. I read the U.S., French papers. You use women, 90 percent of the time, for their sex appeal to sell cars, clothes, products. Unfortunately in your countries many women have no alternative other than prostitution. Society can do better than that.

[Rolin] What about polygamy?

[Al-Turabi] But I lived in your countries, in the United Kingdom, the United States. You all have several women. Even Prince Charles! The future king of England! (laughter)

Jordan Said To Send 'Carlos' to Khartoum for CIA

JN2508170694 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 23 Aug 94 pp 1, 4

[Report by Kamil Hamid in Khartoum]

[Excerpts] Khartoum, London, Beirut—A security source in Khartoum has accused the Jordanian secret service, acting at the request of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), of sending terrorist Carlos to Sudan "to help brand Sudan as a terrorist state."

Arab diplomatic sources in London said yesterday that Carlos moved from Jordan to Khartoum, having lived in Amman for several months as a diplomat at the Iraqi Embassy. [passage omitted]

The diplomatic sources said that Carlos was carrying a diplomatic Iraqi passport in the name of a relative of Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz. They indicated that he was carrying other passports.

The sources added that he was "introduced to the Jordanian authorities as Tariq 'Aziz's cousin, and that the Jordanian authorities discovered his identity only after Sudanese-Jordanian contacts following his travel to Khartoum in August 1993.

The sources said that Carlos had arrived in Jordan with an intention to leave for Iraq, having spent years in Syria and South Yemen.

The sources said he could not enter Iraq because the Iraqi Government was worried that he might be exposed.

The sources said that it is not clear why Carlos left for Khartoum, and that "it could be that the Jordanian authorities began to suspect his moves when they initiated strict surveillance of Iraqi diplomats following the assassination of an Iraqi nuclear engineer in Amman in 1993. [passage omitted]

Daily Reports Jordanian Concern

NC2308140894 Paris AFP in English 1332 GMT 23 Aug 94

[Text] Khartoum, Aug 23 (AFP)—Jordan asked international terrorist "Carlos, the Jackal" to leave for Sudan as it feared his presence might damage peace talks with Israel, a newspaper reported here Tuesday [23 August] quoting Sudanese security sources.

The independent AL MASSIRAH weekly newspaper also said Jordanian security services, acting at the request of the US Central Intelligence Agency, had sent Carlos, whose real name is Illich Ramirez-Sanchez, to Sudan nine months ago to help brand Khartoum a terrorist-state.

The weekly also said Carlos had received training in Egypt and had also lived for a time in Oman.

Carlos was expelled to France on 13 August where he stands convicted of terrorist killings.

King Husayn of Jordan and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin announced the end of a 46-year state of war between their two countries on 25 July.

Paper Closed After Publishing Report

NC2508163694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1520 GMT 25 Aug 94

[Text] Khartoum, 25 Aug (MENA)—The Sudanese authorities have decided to close down for good the

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semiofficial weekly AL-MASIRAH after only one issue after the newspaper had reappeared following a seven-month halt.

The issue in question included an accusation that the Jordanian Government extradited terrorist Carlos to Sudan at the instruction of the U.S. intelligence services. The paper called for opening the secret file between Khartoum and Amman. The newspaper also published a document issued by the legal adviser of Sudanese President Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir on the compensation given to Mahjub 'Urwah, owner and chief editor of the AL-SUDANI international newspaper, which has been suspended by the president under the emergency law.

AL-MASIRAH, which is known to have ties to the Sudanese security services, revealed the Sudanese Foreign Ministry's repeated attempts to appoint a prominent broadcaster as an ambassador abroad. The paper hinted that the chief editor of the government newspaper AL-SUDAN AL-HADITH may be involved in a suspicious advertisement deal. It also hinted that the justice minister may be relieved of his duties and replaced by the Dean of the Law School at Khartoum University.

AL-MASIRAH ceased publication for seven months to rearrange its affairs in accordance with the law of the National Council for Press and Publications, which was issued approximately nine months ago.

U.S. Reported To Approve of Actions on 'Carlos'

EA2308202994 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 23 Aug 94

[Excerpt] The consul of the United States Embassy in Khartoum has stressed that his country is eager to strengthen and boost the dialogue between the government and the factions of the rebellion. He expressed the hope that the forthcoming round of talks in Nairobi would achieve the desired progress toward peace.

The U.S. official said Sudan's stand with regard to the terrorist Carlos, was positive and responsible.

This was said during a meeting between Ahmad 'Abd-al-Rahman Muhammad, the chairman of the federal relations committee in the assembly, and the American official today. At the meeting, Muhammad 'Abd-al-Rahman reviewed the government's efforts to establish peace in the country. He stressed that the government firmly believed that the problem of the south should be resolved through dialogue. [passage omitted]

Minister Says 'Carlos' Handed Over Legally

EA2008204594 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 20 Aug 94

[Text] Dr. Ghazi Salah al-Din, the minister of state at the office of the president of the Republic, has reiterated that the handing over of the terrorist Carlos to the French authorities was conducted in accordance with international norms. His Excellency said that the country's civilized orientation prohibits the handing over of a refugee, but this did not apply to Carlos. This was said during a lengthy interview for French television and AFP at the Republican Palace today.

Replying to a question on the country ,which had positioned terrorist Carlos in Sudan, Dr. Ghazi Salah al-Din observed that it was an Arab state, but said it would be premature to identify it. He added that security investigations are still in progress and that Sudan will,tackle the matter through diplomatic channels.

'Carlos' 'Friend' Describes Life in Khartoum

MM1908100994 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 19 Aug 94 p 1

[Report by Muhammad al-Hasan Ahmad: "Carlos Married Sudanese Called Zaynab, Posed as Syrian Merchant"]

[Excerpt] London—A notable Sudanese figure has revealed something that astonished him when he realized that the terrorist Carlos was in fact the man whom he had regarded as a close friend and known as Dr. 'Abdallah Burhan. The Sudanese figure, who asked to remain anonymous, was speaking to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT over the telephone from Khartoum. He said that he first met the "false" friend about a year ago: He was living as a Syrian merchant in Khartoum, where he married a Sudanese woman named Zaynab, the widow of a former senior official.

The notable Sudanese figure described himself as a close friend to the person whom Khartoum has extradited to Paris, saying that he was completely surprised to find out that Dr. 'Abdallah Burhan—who held a passport issued from Syria as an Arab born to a Syrian mother and a Cuban father, and who had taken a Ph.D. in economics from London University—was the famous international terrorist Carlos.

Dr. 'Abdallah Burhan's friend said that he spoke Arabic with a Syrian accent, but not fluently. He added that the alleged doctor lived in a house in the al-Riyad district, one of the Sudanese capital's most exclusive areas. He used to spend his evenings in the Armenian club, of which he became a famous member because of his lavish spending, and also because he was once taken from the club to a police station, where he was held, following a raid on the club. He was accused of drinking alcohol. But he returned to the club the following evening to resume his life as normal, as though nothing had happened.

The Sudanese figure went on to say: When we asked him how he was able to rid himself of the police and whether he was not frightened of being arrested again in a similar raid, he said that he enjoyed high-level protection and that his arrest had been a mistake. Later it was noted that he moved only under Sudanese security protection.

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The friend said that Dr. 'Abdallah had integrated into the Sudanese upper class as an investor and eventually had married a Sudanese woman named Zaynab, widow of a former official in the regime.

Meanwhile, independent sources in the Sudanese capital, Khartoum, have said that Carlos set up a textile workshop in Khartoum behind Ahmad Qasim Hospital for Sick Children, jointly with the son of a famous merchant, and that he brought in Thai workers to operate the factory. Carlos had also concluded an arms deal under which he acquired equipment and spare parts for Russian-made MiG aircraft from North Korea through a British company in cooperation with a prominent trader known for dealing in arms. [passage omitted]

Abu-Salih Denies Escalating Egypt Dispute

MM2608111094 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 25 Aug 94 p5

[Interview with Foreign Minister Dr. Husayn Abu-Salih by Muhammad Sa'id Muhammad al-Hasan in Khartoum; date not given]

[Text] [Al-Hasan] Cairo has accused Khartoum of being the cause of the intensification of the crisis between the two countries, citing as evidence the Sudanese Government's recent memoranda sent to the UN Security Council, the Arab League, and the OAU. What is your opinion?

[Abu-Salih] First of all, we must focus on the constant elements in our bilateral relations. We are fully aware of the importance of our close ties. That is why, for our part, we have been eager not to sacrifice these ties because they are essential for our future and common fate.

That is why the memoranda submitted to the Security Council, the Arab League, and the OAU should not be interpreted as an escalation of the crisis or the differences between the two countries. On the contrary, having exhausted all possible means of finding a solutions, we had no other option.

Cairo had rejected all these ways and means. It does not approve of bilateral meetings, mediation, or arbitration on the dispute over the Hala'ib issue.

We waited a whole year for Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa to come to Khartoum as agreed in July 1993 in Cairo, but he did not come. We could not remain silent. There is a disputed territory, and the Sudanese people do not accept or approve of this situation. Cairo does not want to admit that. It talks about Parallel 22, but we are talking about the Hala'ib triangle. They are talking about a line and we are talking about a triangle which means area and territory. That is elementary.

[Al-Hasan] Cairo also accuses Khartoum of seeking escalation with Egypt whenever it has internal problems and difficulties. What is your comment on that?

[Abu-Salih] We have heard such statements and claims that Sudan intensifies its campaigns against Egypt whenever it has internal difficulties to divert attention from internal problems. Such claims do not deserve any comment. The firm fact which everyone knows is that the Sudanese people are too mature to be misled or led astray. We are talking about a bilateral dialogue to end the dispute. In other words, we are not talking about a military confrontation, only about the need to sit down together to find solutions that would restore the situation in the Hala'ib triangle to what it was in 1989, which means that we want to stabilize the Hala'ib situation, not escalate or divert attention.

We have done everything we could to reactivate the issue by legitimate means because the other side does not want bilateral dialogue, mediation, arbitration, or recourse to the International Court of Justice.

It is clear to us that Cairo does not want to deal with Khartoum, out of hatred for the Sudanese Government which it wants removed, but this government will remain and there is no way of ignoring it.

I have said more than once that Sudan and Egypt, by virtue of their position, resources, and capabilities, constitute a considerable and formidable power. Under the new order, they should have an effective and influential role, but this dispute prevents that. It is a dispute which should concern all Arab parties because it is causing more deterioration and division in Arab ranks.

[Al-Hasan] If the official memoranda to the Security Council, the Arab League, and the OAU do not constitute an escalation of the dispute with Egypt, what does?

[Abu-Salih] These memoranda and the facts they present on the dispute between the two countries are meant as a message to Cairo that there should be a dialogue between the two countries to find a solution.

We are ready for bilateral dialogue and also for Arab or African mediation or international arbitration, but it is very clear that Cairo wants neither bilateral dialogue nor mediation. Our invitation to Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa still stands.

[Al-Hasan] Have you received any indications of Arab League intercession in the dispute?

[Abu-Salih] The Arab League's charter, aims, and duties dictate that it should make an initiative on every dispute or problem but it has not played that role. But we would welcome it if the Arab League interceded or played a positive part, if it could drive the two sides toward bilateral meetings and negotiations to resolve bilateral issues. We wish there could be direct contacts with both sides, but that has not occurred with us so far.

[Al-Hasan] Have you been notified of a Syrian or Libyan mediation to settle the dispute between the two countries?

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[Abu-Salih] We have not been notified of anything officially. As I said, our position is clear should such a thing occur.

[Al-Hasan] There seems to be an escalation in the internal media against Cairo. What is the aim of that?

[Abu-Salih] It should be realized that the internal media have their motives because of the Egyptian media campaigns against Sudan, but we would like our media to be quiet and give way to diplomacy.

[Al-Hasan] Cairo says it had its reasons for stopping the bilateral dialogue with Khartoum. What, in your view, are these reasons?

[Abu-Salih] Whatever the reasons, they should not prevent dialogue between the two countries, because any problem can be raised around the negotiating table, otherwise how are the problems to be solved? If the door of dialogue is closed, what is the alternative?

[Al-Hasan] Cairo has praised 'Izz-al-Din Hamid, the Sudanese ambassador, and praised his performance there, but he has been recalled to Khartoum and a new ambassador has been appointed in his place. What is the explanation for that?

[Abu-Salih] Yes, Cairo praised the performance of Ambassador 'Izz-al-Din Hamid, and we praise his performance, but diplomatic transfers are governed by diplomatic work regulations. The new ambassador is a diplomat and both the old and the new ambassadors implement Sudan's foreign policy.

Human Rights Group Complains to UN About Egypt

EA1908163094 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 19 Aug 94

[Text] The Sudanese Human Rights Organization has sent a memorandum to the UN secretary general, Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali, on the Egyptian regime's violation of human rights.

The organization requested the United Nations to hold talks with the Egyptian authorities with a view to stop its practices against Sudanese residents in Egypt and those in transit.

The organization stressed that it had received information showing that the Egyptian authorities were pursuing Sudanese students and those working in Egypt and had detained some in Egyptian jails without trial and without any justification for these pursuits and detentions.

The organization announced that the Egyptian authorities' treatment of Sudanese in transit through Egyptian airports and ports contradicts all international laws and conventions.

In its memorandum to the UN secretary general, the organization referred to what Sudanese diplomats in Cairo have been subjected to recently, a matter which contradicts agreements on diplomatic immunity and protection of diplomats.

Minister, Committees Reject ICPD Agenda

EA2408110894 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 23 Aug 94

[Text] Mr. Ali Uthman Muhammad Taha, minister of social planning, has explained that the workshop held by the National Population Committee, in conjunction with the volunteer work commission, expressed its categorical rejection of the issues that will be discussed by the UN International Conference on Population and Development [ICPD] which is scheduled to be held in Cairo next month.

He said the workshop demanded the removal of those issues from the agenda of the conference. It appealed to all the forces that serve the entity of the Muslim family, moral values, and religious principles to strive to coordinate their stands towards the issues that will be discussed by the conference. He added that the workshop aimed at coordinating policies and approaches to the issues to be submitted at the conference and the role of volunteer organizations in this respect. His excellency praised the role being played by these organizations and the precision of their follow-up of the special developments regarding this issue.

The commission of the department of organizations in the Foreign Ministry presented Sudan's comment on the draft action plan presented to the ICPD, scheduled to be held from 5 to 13 September in Cairo. Sudan emphasized the role of morals and religions, and the importance of complete respect for local cultures and religions of every country in addition to comprehensive development and self-sufficiency. The draft explained that Sudan rejected sterilization and the use of abortion as a method of birth control and it is committed to the Islamic legal rules regarding this.

Western Sahara

Polisario, Government Urge International Pressure

LD2508140994 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 25 Aug 94

[Text] The Polisario [Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia El Hamra and Rio de Oro] and the government of the Saharan Arab Democratic Republic called on the international community to put pressure on Morocco to end its illegitimate occupation of Western Sahara. We go back to Hamza Wahib:

[Wahib] The Polisario and the Saharan Government addressed a call to the United Nations and the OAU, in which they invited them to assume complete responsibility for liberating Western Sahara and defending the

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settlement plan against all forms of procrastination and dodgery.

In a statement issued yesterday, the Polisario and the Saharan Government pointed out that the coordinators of the committees of the Polisario's national secretariat met last Tuesday under the chairmanship of Mr. Mohamed Abdelaziz, secretary general of the Polisario and president of the Saharan Arab Democratic Republic, and expressed different forms of support and international solidarity.

The Saharan coordinators welcomed with great relief the appointment of the OAU's observers and announced the readiness of the Polisario and the Saharan Government to cooperate with the two international and African organizations to implement the settlement plan agreed to by the two parties to the conflict and approved by the UN Security Council to carry out a free and transparent referendum to determine the destiny of the Saharan people.

According to the statement, the Saharan coordinators pointed out that a serious, exclusive dialogue between the Polisario and Morocco could contribute toward resolving the problems that have always obstructed the implementation of the settlement plan and would also contribute toward creating a suitable atmosphere for the embodiment of a durable and just peace.

The statement, which has been delivered to APS, concluded by saying that—despite the fact that the Saharan people have adopted a peaceful and democratic solution and its readiness to confront the war imposed by Morocco—it remained mobilized and prepared for national independence and to defend the safety of its territories by all means.

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Saudi Arabia

Rights Group Alleges 'Arrest Campaign' Launched

MM2408140394 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 23 Aug 94 p1

[Text] London, AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI—The Committee for the Defense of Legitimate Rights in Saudi Arabia has revealed that an arrest campaign was launched recently targeting a number of committee supporters in more than one Saudi town.

In a statement distributed to the press and news agencies, the committee said that the authorities arrested Ahmad Bin-Muhammad al-Furayj (teacher) and Sulayman 'Abdallah al-Suwalylimi in the town of al-Bukayriyah in al-Qasim region.

It added that the authorities in al-Jawf arrested Manawi Bin-Harran al-Ruwayli, a warrant officer in the Prisons Authority, and also fired him from his post on the charge of sympathizing with the committee. It added that 'Abd-al-'Aziz Bin-Fahd al-Jarallah al-Shamri was arrested in al-Khafji area and 'Abdallah al-Rubaysh was arrested in Buraydah.

The committee also spoke of the continuing detention of Anmar al-Mas'ari (118 days), Nawa al-Mas'ari (110 days), Dr. Fu'ad al-Dahlawi (113 days), Rashad al-Mudarris (117 days), Nabil al-Mudarris (113 days), and Muhammad Bin-Fahd al-Marshud (35 days).

United Arab Emirates

President Meets Mubarak in Geneva

NC2408145294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1410 GMT 24 Aug 94

[Excerpt] Geneva, 24 Aug (MENA)—His Excellency Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, United Arab Emirates president, visited President Husni Mubarak at his place of residence here today shortly before the latter's return to the homeland.

During the meeting, the two leaders resumed their consultations on issues concerning bilateral relations and recent developments in the Arab arena. President Mubarak held a round of talks yesterday with Shaykh Zayid, who is on a private visit to Geneva. [passage omitted]

Yemen

YSP Leader on Damascus Meeting, U.S. Role

JN2408101094 London AL-WASAT in Arabic 22-28 Aug 94 pp 28-31

[Interview with Salim Salih Muhammad, assistant secretary general of the YSP, by Ibrahim Humaydi in Damascus; date not given]

[Text] [Humaydi] Are you satisfied with the results of the meetings held by the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] leaders in Damascus?

[Muhammad] We are not satisfied with these results because, in our view, they do not represent even the minimum we need. However, in view of the current conditions and the calamity that has afflicted the party and its institutions, something had to be done in order to come out with a clear plan, a plan to address the tragic conditions our cadres are facing both inside and outside Yemen under the acts of oppression, plundering, and the political and intellectual terrorism that are being practiced in the country.

[Humaydi] What have you proposed to resolve this situation?

[Muhammad] I believe that after this very real shake up that we faced as a party and as the south—since the south was the victim of the plunder and pillaging—we have to reconsider our program and methods. We need to create a new system—both a political and an intellectual system, for the internal relations of the party, which must survive. This system must be based on reality. We hope this can be brought about within the framework of Yemen, both the northern and southern parts.

The current conditions that governs relations between the government and citizens is a chronic problem in Yemen. I am not accusing any particular officials, because they are all governed by this unpleasant reality, regardless of what that person's views and positions, and because the system is based on central government. The provinces and governorates must enjoy freedom and some sort of a political and intellectual program that fits each governorate if we want to realize the various aspects of development.

[Humaydi] So, you are calling for an institutionalized system within the party?

[Muhammad] Yes. From the experience and the bitter reality it produced, I feel we need such a mentality if we want to build a genuine party that can address the people's issues. In the foreseeable future, the Sanaa-based group may drag the party behind it and claim that it represents the party and has the right to do anything. But can this group address the people's issues in Aden and other governorates? I do not think so.

If we want our party to be for all Yemen, both the northern and southern parts, then we have to find balanced relations based on mutual recognition. We must also grant the organizations the right to make decisions within the general framework of the party and the policies decided by the party's council, which meets twice a year.

[Humaydi] Does this mean there are various opinions within the party?

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[Muhammad] Of course, this is inevitable. If we wish to revive democracy in society, then we must introduce it to our parties. However, the problem with the parties is that they want to try democracy in the houses of others. This is a basic tragedy. When a certain party speaks about democracy and demands democracy and political pluralism, we find that the same party does not apply these basic concepts in its own relations. Take for example the existing parties—both the left- and right-wing parties—they do not apply these concepts.

[Humaydi] But your party is now in need of strong leadership.

[Muhammad] Of course, an alternative leadership will be found and life will continue and no one can stop it. But the question is: How and when? There are many capable people, but the question is really over the political line of the party. Because on this basis many other issues will become clear. If we agree on a party line and if the group responsible for this line manages to assess the situation soundly, it will be easy. However, if things continue to be unclear, the question of the individual leaders will be very difficult.

[Humaydi] Your name was suggested because you have the ability to conduct a dialogue with Sanaa to convince them to cancel the list of 16 wanted for trial.

[Muhammad] This list is an arbitrary one. Names were put on the list during the war while the people's sentiments were broiling. Some names like Ahmad Bin-Dughr and Qasim 'Abd-al-Rabb were squeezed onto it. As I understood, the officials in Sanaa selected names from all southern governorates. The list is not accurate, and I think logic calls for its cancellation. Based on the experience of 1986, when we went through greater convulsions than we are now, we used to refuse to speak about former South Yemeni President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, but we were in difficult times and we had to issue an amnesty, another amnesty, and a third amnesty. We had to resort to dialogue and to cancel all trials. Therefore, we consider this list and the rash leanings in Sanaa as very hasty and wrong. It could lead to counter measures by others. When we raised the slogan of national reconciliation, we wanted to extricate ourselves from this dilemma and to present ideas in line with the trend that represents the political forces inside and outside Yemen. It is the age of reconciliation, and this is what is needed now. We see the peace process, and we see things that are taking place that used to be viewed as impossible in the past. If we want to get out of this crisis, I believe that the file on internal struggle in Yemen should be closed and that the belligerent parties should work out a reconciliation program based on historical compromises.

The economic situation is very difficult. For example, Sanaa has asked oil companies to move from Aden to Sanaa although these companies operate in the south. These companies asked to be paid for the new offices to be built in the north, and the authority suggested that the cost be deducted from the low revenues of oil. Furthermore, investments that had begun to come into Aden shrank because the investors are being chased because they are from the south, specifically from Hadhramaut. So what future is awaiting the southern areas. No financier is ready to invest his money in Yemen because there are no establishments that enforce the law.

The role of anyone of us will be decided on the basis of this reality. What about democracy and how far it is practiced? We can speak well about democracy, but we work the other way round. We speak about democratic parties, and some people think they can make parties, and this will only cost a statement.

The morale and media campaign we are facing represents part of the ugly intellectual terrorism against anything that is related to pan-Arab or leftist ideas. This situation does not allow anyone to lead the ranks under such difficult conditions.

[Humaydi] Since you are talking about surprises, can one expect a meeting between President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and YSP Secretary General 'Ali Salim al-Bid?

[Muhammad] In the statement we issued at the conclusion of our meetings in Damascus, we made many compromises and concessions. Some people opposed them, thinking that we abandoned the Democratic Republic of Yemen. However, in my view, the situation required such an initiative to end the war, which left no opportunity for anyone. Those who advocated war also left no opportunity for anyone, but, instead, put them in a state of self-defense.

We raised the slogan of a major national reconciliation. We said that the basis is the document chosen by the Yemeni political community—with the aid of both Arab and friendly foreign powers. That document diagnosed Yemen's problems and proposed solutions. When we propose such ideas, the aim is to rescue Yemen from the state of war and its aftermath. But no one is listening to our proposals. There are some people who even disdain this position because we were defeated.

Historically, Yemen has always been influenced by foreign factors, and not just by domestic ones. Therefore, the reconciliation which will end conflict cannot be based on domestic factors alone, but it must also include our brothers in the Gulf states. It must also take into consideration the regional situation so that we can end these regional groupings, which we have experimented with and for which we have paid a heavy price in the past 30 years.

[Humaydi] Has there been a call to hold a regional conference for the influential parties, both domestic and foreign.

[Muhammad] I have never concealed the fact that we proposed such ideas during the war. There are influential parties that call for meetings among certain leaders to discuss the situation in Yemen in order to solve the

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crisis. The war and its consequences, however, has prevented this. It seems that the Americans played a certain role in this regard and they are still preoccupied with other issues. I do not know when they will deal with it again. The situation has prevented or delayed such meetings. What is required now is certain action before it is too late.

[Humaydi] Does this indicate that there was a fault with the views of the YSP and the southern leaders?

[Muhammad] Of course, and we are in a state of internal analysis, but we are not trying to find scapegoats. We will have to prepare ourselves and find the mistakes we made. I'd like to stress that one of these mistakes was our reliance on illusions in our assessments of the U.S. and international position. We were also shocked by the Arab League's position. Their position toward the cause, for which we fought and were defeated, was clear.

[Humaydi] So, you have not held anyone responsible out of concern for the party?

[Muhammad] We will not accept everything the regime in Sanaa wants. Each has his own assessments. If we wish to respect the spectrum of political action in Yemen, the party cannot agree to have its statements drafted by intelligence agencies in Sanaa. We must draft our statements according to our views and assessments. This is a well-known fact and we would not accept directions from the regime's intelligence agencies.

Al-Bid is to blame, that is inevitable. But we are looking for real solutions that will help us address our situation, comfort thousands of victims both inside and outside the country, and restore hope. Those who are abroad do not know where to go and what they may face tomorrow. We are in the process of adjusting to the situation and we want to catch our breath to preserve what remains and to think about building the party once again. We will not build it on the same ground, but instead place new foundations.

[Humaydi] Does your joining the opposition mean that the party's ministers have renounced their portfolios?

[Muhammad] Certainly, because the current ministers are of no value. They are just there to adorn the government and resume responsibility without real influence. It is better to remain in the opposition to revitalize the party and infuse new blood into it.

[Humaydi] If this becomes impossible, will you move on to armed action?

[Muhammad] I am wary of the method of armed resistance. Armed struggle is resorted to as a means of destructive political action when you cannot find any other way to voice your views. Nobody can start armed struggle unless there are certain sections in the society that approve of this and unless there are allies abroad to facilitate this. Military operations are a difficult adventure. We do not want to discuss this issues because we are trying to explore possibilities at home and abroad that might help us impose certain formulas both in our action and in our relations with others.

The issue of armed struggle is completely different. I have said that I lived through this during the struggle against the British and I lived through certain aspects of it during the armed struggle. Therefore the matter is not simple and it requires mobilizing forces, a proper frame of mind, and the right circumstances to accommodate this action. We cannot do this, given that we reject violence after a harsh experiment. Resorting to armed struggle needs deep study, and haste in this matter breeds destruction.

[Humaydi] Do you have any direct contacts with the United States?

[Muhammad] They have opened new channels with us. We are in direct contact with the U.S. Embassy in Sanaa. Former Prime Minister Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas is in constant contact with the U.S. State Department. They have a clear policy that deals with issues in a way that is completely different from our Arab mentality, but they are not obliged to accept what we present to them because of their position.

[Humaydi] Are they pushing toward national reconciliation?

[Muhammad] Judging by their stand before, during, and after the war, they prefer comprehensive reconciliation and Yemen's stability. They want to solve existing problems in accordance with their understanding of issues. As victims of this understanding, we expected them to exert pressure to impose a settlement but we discovered that they were taking stands on certain issues. Our wagers were misplaced and we became victims of this policy, which we could not feel being implemented.

[Humaydi] Do you hope that the United States will apply pressure to enable you to have a wider political role?

[Muhammad] This is the current intention but daily observations indicate something else. They support the Accord Document, which not only represents the Yemenis but which they themselves blessed and played a role in. Those who were connected with them had a role in it.

[Humaydi] Therefore, the final picture of Yemen is not yet clear?

[Muhammad] War does not give the final picture of any society and the results of war are an exception because it is like brain surgery. War does not represent normal life. However, normal life in Yemen is necessary. What will this life be?

[Humaydi] What are your concepts?

[Muhammad] Efforts must be united and the victor should give some concessions to the vanquished. We

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must join hands to come up with final concepts to emerge from this situation. Complications, instability, and violence result from everybody's insistence that they represent the right path.

[Humaydi] Have you asked Minister of Fish Resources Fadl Muhsin to convey these views to Sanaa?

[Muhammad] Fadl Muhsin attended the meetings and saw the talks with all the differences that were brought up in them. We differed, and everyone got a chance to express their views, but we are all concerned with the view of the majority so that we can come up with a strong position at this difficult historic moment. Fadl Muhsin is now in Yemen, and he will do something in the name of the party, although this will be on a limited scale and within the bounds of what is allowed these days, especially since the sounds of war are still echoing and still assert themselves in the media and society.

I heard that Sanaa's forces have even stolen the garbage trucks from Aden, and they say that garbage is in the streets of the southern capital as a result of the YSP's position. They do anything they can to hurt us. In such a situation, anything that Fadl Muhsin may do will be miraculous, and we hope it will continue to ease the people's suffering.

[Humaydi] What were the reasons for the different views?

[Muhammad] We differed on the questions of war and secession. Some said: We condemn war, but we do not condemn secession. Others called for condemning the secession as a whole, without mentioning the war. All these issues have become something of the past: War; secession; and the Democratic Republic of Yemen. Now we must discuss future prospects. We presented the slogan of national reconciliation and the return of people to Yemen because these are easy issues that do not cost anything.

[Humaydi] Do you fear a division in light of what you said?

[Muhammad] Division is there between the northerners and the southerners, and division is there in all directions. There are historic figures such as Salih Muslih Qasim—who was one of the heroes of the liberation—whose families have been driven out. Regardless of the quarter that drove them out, we need to pay attention to the issues that concern the people even if we do not have the solution instead of raising big slogans that we cannot implement.

[Humaydi] In such a situation, is there a possibility that you may visit Sanaa and meet with President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih?

[Muhammad] There are things that make us uneasy. There is no one source that makes decisions, but rather there are several centers of power. There have been pledges among us not to launch war. President Salih and his deputy al-Bid vowed on the Koran not to launch a war. This took place in the presence of Abu-'Ammar [PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat]. I will reveal, for the first time, that after al-Bid decided to stay in Aden for the second time, Salih and al-Bid met in al-Hudaydah, and I was the only person with them. They vowed several times not to resort to war.

As it is noted, guarantees are not respected in Yemen because there are several quarters that conflict with each other. Such a situation is not reassuring. What concerns us in the reconciliation is that the parties are ready for it. But as long as there is a party that does not recognize this objective and continues along the same lines the difficulty will continue to be tangible.

[Humaydi] Does this mean that, if a division takes place, the leadership will be for those who remain in Yemen?

[Muhammad] On the basis of our experience, action abroad is a secondary issue. Action inside the country is the most effective tool, despite the difficulties, including imprisonment, assassinations, and persecution, because great people can bear a great deal. Regrettably, the Yemeni intellectuals do not reflect the seriousness of the situation in Yemen. I feel that the people can do something in Yemen and can continue to overcome their problems without ignoring foreign relations and foreign support, especially support from the brothers who backed us and who a have role in preserving the party's leaders in the war that was lost.

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DPK's Barzani Accepts Cease-Fire Proposal

JN2608082494 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1645 GMT 25 Aug 94

[Text] Once again, brother Mas'ud Barzani has voiced our party's [Kurdistan Democratic Party, DPK] peaceful position. Brother Barzani replied to a letter from representatives of the Kurdish parliament saying that he ordered a cease-fire provided the other party abides by it. Barzani also said he is ready to attend a parliament session on 25 August, at the scheduled time of 1600.

'Adnan al-Naqshabandi and Hazim al-Yusufi, heads of two parliamentary teams working on ending the fighting, on Wednesday 24 August sent a joint letter to Barzani, Jalal Talabani [leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, PUK], the Islamic Movement's Political Bureau, and the other concerned parties. The letter asked the two parties to:

1. Declare a cease-fire on all axes as of 1800 Wednesday, 24 August, and to instruct the field commanders to abide by this.

2. Start the implementation of a proposal to withdraw troops from towns and villages, starting with Sayyid Sadiq and Qal'at Dizah.

3. Attend the parliament's extraordinary session scheduled to convene at 1600 on Thursday, 25 August to discuss details and take the necessary practical measures.

Brother Barzani responded favorably to the letter of the parliament representatives. He immediately sent a reply letter on the same day, Wednesday, 24 August 1994.

In his reply letter to 'Adnan a-Naqshabandi and Hazim al-Yusufi, Barzani stressed the following:

1. We instructed our troops to abide by your decision to cease- fire if the other party complies.

2. I am prepared to attend the parliament session at the set time.

3. We wish success to the efforts exerted by parliament. We hope the 25 August session will put a decisive end to this crisis which threatens our future.

Brother citizens, with this reply, Brother Barzani reaffirmed his clear and firm position on the crisis. This position is based on concern for a peaceful, democratic solution to the crisis and respect for the will of the parliament and people.

As of 2000 Wednesday, 24 August, the time at which this bulletin was prepared, we have not yet received any reply from the other party.

It is worth mentioning that in his latest cable on the afternoon of 23 August 1994, Jalal Talabani reaffirmed his rejection of a cease-fire and insisted on continuing the fighting under a strange pretext relating to the fraternal ties between our party and the Islamic Movement. Jalal Talabani demanded an end to this relationship and the separation of the position of our party and that of the Islamic Movement. Undoubtedly, the citizens and observers realize the meaning of Jalal Talabani's strange request. It is aimed at finding an excuse to continue the fighting.

It is illogical to separate our party's military stand from that of the Islamic Movement under such delicate circumstances. It is also illogical to separate the stands of any two parties at a time when they are engaged in fighting which was imposed on them. Therefore, the PUK condition is impossible to meet. It is a condition the PUK has set to justify its continued fighting and aggressions against our party in particular.

The PUK forces in the Qal'at Dizah area, over the past few days, concentrated their attacks on our party's forces. This is on the one hand. On the other hand, Jalal Talabani himself agreed, before the parliament, on 15 August 1994, on the immediate halt of fighting and normalization of the situation. During that session, it was decided to include the Islamic Movement in all the normalization committees in the region. Jalal Talabani agreed on this decision. At the time, he did not say anything about excluding the Islamic Movement from the normalization committees. Nor did he stipulate a separation between the forces of the Islamic Movement and our party as a precondition to stop fighting. Why is this condition and at this time in particular? Where did the idea of this condition come from? The answer is clear: The PUK, from 2 May until now, has been insisting on its tyranny and on imposing its unilateral hegemony over the regions under its control. It does not want to normalize the situation in these areas. This is the essence of the issue.

All these regrettable clashes were the result of the PUK's parochial view of life and politics. It wants everything for any price, even if this means by the force of arms, delusion, cheating, and the creation of justifications and conditions. We completely reject these conditions. Any political organization that has respect for itself will never accept these conditions. Therefore, the PUK will be fully responsible for these regrettable clashes and their repercussions. However, the relationship between our party and the Islamic Movement, regardless of the current military and political stand, is a brotherly and useful relationship to be employed for a comprehensive political settlement in the region.

We still say that the sound stand that the PUK should adopt is to restore its relations with everyone, including the Islamic Movement, based on respect for the right to political action and freedom of expression, meetings, and activities. In other words, the current relationship between our party and the Islamic Movement will be in the interest of achieving full normalization and restoring stability and peace.

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Paper Attacks Clinton's B'nai B'rith Statements

JN2608105794 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0740 GMT 26 Aug 94

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Aug (INA)—AL-THAWRAH has said that Clinton's statements at the world conference of the Jewish organization B'nai B'rith, in which he defended maintaining the unfair embargo against Iraq, reflect Washington's isolation and failure to maintain what it calls the international unanimity after it failed to resolve its domestic problems.

The paper, the mouthpiece of Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, stresses that most of the countries in the world have realized the extent of injustice done to Iraq as a result of the embargo, which violated all charters and conventions.

The paper adds: It is ironic that at the time when the whole world is witnessing the United States blatantly interfering in domestic affairs and violating human rights in more than one place, Clinton talks about what he calls acts of violence and terrorism in Iraq. He forgets or pretends to forget, with clear stupidity, that the blood which was spilled in Baghdad and the houses that were demolished on the heads of their residents only two days ago were due to an act carried out by his agents and the agents of those who supported his hostility against Iraq and its people. Clinton also pretends to forget that this was an act of the very terrorism he is talking about.

The paper explains that Clinton's falsifications and his call to maintain the rigorous sanctions against Iraq come at the time when most countries in the world, including the majority of permanent and non-permanent members of the UN Security Council, feel that it is now time to lift he blockade against Iraq and that the UN Security Council must fulfill its obligations after it has been confirmed by events—as well as reports of the Special Commission charged with the implementation, particularly those submitted by its chairman Rolf Ekeus—that Iraq has fulfilled all of its obligations.

The paper adds: The chorus that kept beating the drums behind Clinton now only has a group of agents, particularly the Al Sa'ud and al-Sabah families and other trivial people who jumped in the United States' lap and enabled it to lead them the way it wishes and in a manner that serves its own interests and guarantees its mastery over the region and its wealth.

The paper stresses that with their legendary steadfastness in the face of the aggression and their support of the leadership of the pioneer of their renaissance, President Saddam Husayn, the Iraqi people are capable of making the lying impostors shut up forever once free will triumphs and the blockade disintegrates. That day is not far away.

Industry Minister Inaugurates Lead Foundry Project

JN2608092694 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 17 Aug 94 p 4

[Article by Rahman al-Juwari]

[Text] Industry and Minerals Minister Staff General Husayn Kamil Hasan this morning inaugurated the lead foundry project, which was carried out by the State Engineering Company for Industrial Designing and Construction for the State Enterprise for the Battery Industry.

The occasion was marked by a ceremony attended by the two under secretaries of the ministry and several directors from the ministry and the Military Industrialization Organization. The ceremony began with a recitation from the Holy Koran followed by reading the first Sura of the Koran for the repose of the souls of our national martyrs.

Later, Dr. Fadil Musallam al-Janabi, director general of the State Enterprise for the Battery Industry, delivered a speech in which he outlined the implementation of the project and its vital importance in producing lead for the production of batteries.

Dr. al-Janabi said that the total cost of the project, which included the building of stores, amounted to 60 million dinars. The project, he added, was carried out by the State Engineering Company for Industrial Designing and Construction and other support units.

In an interview with AL-THAWRAH, Salah Yusuf Kuzbar, director general of the State Engineering Company for Industry Designing and Construction, said: The project consists of two silos for the raw materials that go into the production. The silos supply these materials in specific quantities along belt conveyors to the feeder containers, which then move on rails and empty the materials in a rotating furnace with a capacity of 10 tonnes. The furnace is rotated by means of an automated system which operates at two speeds: one revolution per 10 minutes, and one revolution per minute.

Kuzbar said that the project was completely carried out with Iraqi expertise through the concerted efforts of several production units and research and designing centers in the ministry and the Military Industrialization Organization.

AL-THAWRAH has learned that the project's total cost of 60 million dinars was recovered within only one month by operating the project with technical competence and high efficiency.

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Jerusalem Critical of Cancellation of Gore Visit

TA2608103094 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 26 Aug 94 p 13

[Report by Hemi Shalev]

[Text] Last night, political elements in Jerusalem voiced surprise mixed with criticism at the cancellation of the U.S. vice president's visit to Israel.

Jerusalem political echelons were uncomfortable with Al Gore's visit, which was slated for 4 September, from the outset because Gore, who is well known for his sympathy for Israel, planned to stay in Israel for only a few hours. The Israeli Embassy in Washington approached the administration and inquired whether the visit could be extended.

It was later learned that Gore decided to call off his visit on orders from his doctors, as a result of a leg injury. Nevertheless, the vice president did not cancel his participation in the conference on demography scheduled to be held in Cairo in 10 days.

Last night, surprise was voiced in Jerusalem at the fact that Gore is well enough for a visit to Egypt but not to Israel.

Plan for Interim Peace With Lebanon Said Drafted

TA2508181194 Jerusalem New Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 25 Aug 94

[Report by political correspondent 'Imanu'el Rosen]

[Excerpts] A plan for an interim peace arrangement with Lebanon was clandestinely drafted at the Defense Ministry over the past year. Under the plan, the Israeli withdrawal to the international border will not be contingent on a sweeping peace accord with Lebanon. The specifics of the plan were conveyed to the Lebanese Government, but no response has been received to date. Our political correspondent 'Imanu'el Rosen reports:

[Rosen] For over a year, senior Defense Ministry staffers, directed by Uri Lubrani, drafted a voluminous document representing the Israeli proposal for an interim arrangement with Lebanon. The details of this arrangement were first conveyed to Lebanon in the course of Lubrani's tete-a-tetes with his counterpart Suhayl Shammas in January 1994.

The plan stresses that contrary to the past, Israel no longer insists on linking its withdrawal from the security zone with a sweeping peace arrangement that includes diplomatic ties and so forth. Rather, Israel now strives to an interim arrangement. The highlights of this arrangement, as they have been repeatedly announced by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin—most recently in his interview with the newspaper AL-HAYAH—are: The Lebanese Army would deploy along the security zone border; terrorist organizations would be disarmed; the south Lebanese population and the South Lebanese Army troops would be granted impunity; Lebanon will guarantee six-months of quiet on Israel's northern border and in the security zone; three months of negotiations are to be held, at the conclusion of which Israel will withdraw to the international border. [passage omitted]

So far, only the Lebanese team and Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin have been apprised of the plan, which had been conceived out of the lessons learned from the Oslo agreement—namely, that security hazards must be averted before they materialize. [passage omitted]

Russian Envoy Pessimistic on Talks With Syria

TA2608102294 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 26 Aug 94 pp 1, 2

[Report by Hemi Shalev]

[Excerpts] Syria believes there has been no genuine progress in the peace process, and no breakthrough in the negotiations with Damascus should be expected in the foreseeable future. This pessimistic assessment was voiced yesterday in Jerusalem by special Russian envoy Viktor Posuvalyuk.

In the meetings he held in Jerusalem following his visit to Damascus, Posuvalyuk added that he had found substantial centers of opposition to an arrangement with Israel in various circles at the highest echelons of the Syrian Administration. Posuvalyuk said Israel is wrong to believe that the progress on the other peace process fronts will inspire Syria to promote the process.

He added that contrary to the optimistic declarations which came out of Jerusalem and Washington after U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's most recent tour of the region, he was informed by the Syrians that there has been no progress in the negotiations. [passage omitted]

The Russian envoy said Moscow will continue to sell weapons to Damascus, but it is convinced that the sales will not harm the peace process. [passage omitted]

Demands Say in Jerusalem's Future

TA2508174494 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 25 Aug 94

[Studio talk between anchorman Razi Barqay and political correspondent Udi Segal including remarks by Viktor Posuvalyuk, special envoy of Russian President Boris Yeltsin, and Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin—Posuvlyuk speaks in English; italicized passages are recorded]

[Text] [Barqay] Good evening to our political correspondent Udi Segal.

[Segal] Good evening.

[Barqay] I understand that the Russian envoy has arrived?

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[Segal] Yes, at this very moment, Mr. Viktor Posuvalyuk, the Russian president's special envoy, is making his way to the Gaza Strip for a meeting with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. The Russian envoy has just completed a meeting with Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin in the latter's office. The two men discussed many issues, including the Syrian track. The Russian envoy said that the Syrians were serious. When we asked Posuvalyuk what this assessment was based upon, he said that he had reached this conclusion following many conversations he had held in Russia and in Syria. It must be stressed that Posuvalyuk arrived in Jerusalem after visiting Damascus, Amman, and Beirut. Posuvalyuk raised a new issue, the issue of Jerusalem, and here are some remarks he made a short while ago following his meeting with Deputy Minister Beilin.

[Posuvalyuk] *So we have all rights in our opinion to take part in all the efforts—when the time comes—related to Jerusalem the holy city.*

[Segal translates above remarks into Hebrew and continues] Posuvalyuk explains Russia's right to participate in the discussions over Jerusalem's future because Russia has the largest Eastern Orthodox Christian community in Jerusalem as well as a quite sizable Muslim community. We immediately asked Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin for Israel's reaction to this and here is his reply.

[Beilin] *This is the first time he has raised this issue and it comes against the background of our agreement with Jordan. I think that as far as Israel is concerned, we undoubtedly will have to take into consideration all the different parties which have an interest in the religious solution in Jerusalem. Posuvalyuk is actually saying is that Russians compose the largest Christian community in Jerusalem, that of the Eastern Orthodox Church, which is far larger than that of the Catholics. Therefore, he asserts that Russia will have a say when Jerusalem's religious status comes up on the agenda. I do not think that we should reject such a request.*

[A similar report on the Posuvalyuk-Beilin meeting Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 1500 GMT on 25 August notes that "the Russian position has taken Israeli officials by surprise." The report adds that "Russia owns vast and historic property in the city," reporting that "the Russian emissary also said the Arab states have shown understanding for this position. Deputy Foreign Minister Beilin asked if the Russians were seeking a role in administering the holy sites or a political role in Jerusalem. Posuvalyuk's reply was described as ambivalent."]

[Segal] It should be noted that Beilin's statements on Jerusalem, with regard to which many countries have issued requests, basically correspond with the Foreign Ministry's policy, or at least with the policy promulgated by Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres who would like to see as many parties as possible involved in this matter. Posuvalyuk was also asked about recently signed arms deals between Syria and Russia. He silenced all questions by stating that he was not a representative of the Russian Defense Ministry. When asked about the incidents of plutonium smuggling, Posuvalyuk laconically replied that he did not handle such issues.

[Barqay] You will excuse me if I am more interested in what Deputy Foreign Minister Beilin had to say. Did Beilin make any new statements with regard to the Golan Heights?

[Segal] No, no new statements. Beilin has reiterated that he spoke about a withdrawal on the Golan Heights and the Swedish media was not sufficiently aware of the nuances differentiating between withdrawal on and withdrawal from [preceding five words in English]. This is a political term which has great significance.

Now to move on to other matters. In the past few days, the Iraqi issue has featured prominently on the agenda, following Arab Democratic Party Knesset Member 'Abd-al-Wahhab Darawshah's visit to Washington. Darawshah seeks to head an Arab delegation to Iraq. Deputy Minister Beilin expressed vehement opposition to any attempt to organize such a delegation to Baghdad stating that Israel fully subscribed to U.S. President Bill Clinton's policy on this matter.

Another visit on the agenda is that of Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto to the Gaza Strip. Beilin was very firm in asserting that she would have to first approach Israel.

[Beilin] *The Pakistani prime minister did not inform us about anything. We only heard about it through the media. She must approach us if she wants to visit the autonomous areas because she must first go through the Israeli authorities. If she wants to visit the autonomy, she will have to approach us and Israel will decide whether or not to permit her visit. We will only have to make a decision on the matter if and when she approaches us.*

[Segal] There is therefore no confirmation of Benazir Bhutto's visit to the Gaza Strip.

Golan Moshav Vows 'Firm Measures' Against Pullout

TA2508132394 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 25 Aug 94 p 5

[Report by Guga Kogan]

[Excerpt] The inhabitants of the Neve Ativ settlement near Mount Hermon are planning to barricade themselves in their houses if the government decides to evacuate the Golan Heights in the framework of negotiations with Syria.

"The slogan, 'No Budging From the Golan,' must be given some practical content that will make the Israeli people understand that we intend to exacerbate the struggle for our houses in the Golan. If need be, we will fight, shutter our houses and barricade ourselves inside,

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and we will prevent people from reaching us," Eli Sagron, one of the settlement leaders, said yesterday.

He made these remarks at a general meeting of the moshav, which passed a resolution to launch a separate struggle against relinquishing the Mount Hermon and the area surrounding it. The moshav members said their struggle would be "uncompromising, including the use of very firm measures, but not including bloodshed and firearms."

Moshav members voiced bitter criticism of the "overly vegetarian" course of action of the Golan Settlements Committee, which prompted Neve Ativ to launch an independent struggle.

The moshav members plan to seek active supporters among the general public.

The general meeting was held in the wake of a series of pronouncements on the future of the Golan Heights made by Israeli public figures. The most recent was that of Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin, who implied—in the moshav members' opinion—that "there is a very genuine intention to give the Golan back in the framework of a peace accord with the Syrians." [passage omitted]

Druze Leader on Relations With Syria

BR2508144594 Rome L'INFORMAZIONE in Italian 25 Aug 94 p 15

[Interview with Salah Tarif, Druze representative in Israeli Knesset, by Cesare Pavoncello in Jerusalem; date not given: "Colonists at War With Rabin Government: 'We Will Not Abandon the Golan Heights'"—first two paragraphs are L'INFORMAZIONE introduction]

[Excerpts] The Jewish colonists residing in the Golan Heights—the area in Syria occupied by Israel in 1967 and later annexed—are on the warpath. Yesterday they called for "the immediate dismissal" of the number two man in Israeli diplomacy, Yosi Beilin. [Foreign Minister] Shim'on Peres' deputy declared in Oslo yesterday morning that Israel is willing to cede the Golan Heights in exchange for peace with Syria. [passage omitted]

We interviewed Salah Tarif, the representative of the Druze minority elected to the Knesset on the Labor Party list, concerning the delicate progress if the peace process between Israel and Syria.

[Pavoncello] Can you provide us with a general picture of the Druze people?

[Tarif] Approximately 1.6 million Druze members live in the Middle East, the majority living in Syria and Lebanon with a substantial presence in both Jordan and Israel. The Druze population living in the Jewish state is currently around 100,000; some live in the Golan Heights and have chosen to remain there even after 1967 when it was lost by the Syrians during the Six-Day War. The rest live primarily in Galilee. As in the other countries, here the Druze population is well integrated into the daily life of the society in which they live.

[Pavoncello] How is the situation of the Druze population in Israel as a minority group?

[Tarif] Good, as far as our integration into the life of the country is concerned and good as far as what the citizen should receive from the state. However, still today I cannot say that it is totally well-balanced, primarily where decisions regarding balance sheets are concerned. In this period of peace talks, another doubt is gnawing away at the absolute support of the Druze minority to the state and peace: The fear is that those who have walked together along the long path toward the Jewish state during all the wars will be put aside in times of peace.

[Pavoncello] You are undoubtedly referring to the Druze population in Galilee who have been Jewish citizens ever since the creation of the state. What do you have to say however about the Druze population in the Golan Heights that finds itself having to live "between Israel and Syria?"

[Tarif] This is true. In their case the situation is not that clear, even if the uncertainties concern a substantially small portion of the population: In fact, those who feel tied to Syria want an uncompromising return under its administration, while those that have accepted the fact of living in a new situation have worked to integrate themselves into Israeli society and have succeeded.

[Pavoncello] The peace forecast with Syria could bring dramatic changes for the Druze minority. How do you see the future in this sense?

[Tarif] I think that the welfare and interests of the Druze population coincide with those of Israel and the entire Middle East, in this case at least. Peace must come about gradually and preserve the safety of the country, even at the cost of making some sacrifices and reaching a just and difficult compromise.

Bus Company Said Planning To Run Buses To Jordan

JN2508164594 Amman AKHBAR AL-USBU' in Arabic 25 Aug 94 p 3

[Excerpt] The Israeli "Egged" passenger transportation company is planning to run its buses between Israel and various parts of Jordan.

Company sources have said a passenger route between Jerusalem and Amman is scheduled to be inaugurated. In confirmation of this step aimed at normalizing relations, the Israeli company has erected a large sign in West Jerusalem's central bus station which reads: From Jerusalem to Amman soon.

The Egged buses will use the old land route between Jerusalem and Amman through the Allenby Bridge. If it proves economically feasible to run Israeli buses on a

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road already used by Jordanian and Palestinian transportation companies, three more routes will be added: from Netanya to Amman, from Haifa to Irbid, and from Elat to al-'Aqabah. [passage omitted]

Crossing, New Road on Border With Jordan Started

TA2508170794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 25 Aug 94

[Text] Construction and Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer has directed the Public Works Department to draw up blueprints at once for the Israeli-Jordanian northern border crossing at the King Husayn Bridge near Kibbutz Ma'oz Hayim in the Bet She'an Valley.

Today engineers and Public Works Department surveyors toured the site. They decided to begin immediately building a road linking the border crossing with the Bet She'an Valley highway.

Our correspondent Gay Qotev reports that complying with the prime minister's instructions, the Public Works Department will build a 2-km road in anticipation of the new border crossing's possible opening in mid-October.

Gush Qatif Settlers on Illegal Building, Terror

TA2308171094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1005 GMT 23 Aug 94

[Text] The autonomy is marking its 100 days of existence. The government is pleased, as the accord is progressing well on the whole. The opposition initiated a special Knesset debate to stop the process, and Tzvi Hendel of Gush Qatif, the head of Hof 'Aza regional council, has called a press conference to tell his and the Gush Qatif settlers' version. Gil Litman reports:

[Begin Litman recording] The settlers divided the news conference into two parts: First, figures on the rise in the level of terror since the establishment of the Palestinian self-government in the Strip and second a tour of the fringes of the Gush Qatif territory demonstrating examples of illegal Palestinian construction inside the area under the State of Israel's control. At least according to what we saw, within the boundaries of the al-Mawasi, an agricultural area on the Gush Qatif coast, several three- and four-story buildings are indeed standing, illegally built according to the settlers who complain they cannot struggle against this phenomenon.

During the first part of the news conference Tzvi Hendel and his colleagues distributed a pamphlet which proves, so they believe, that the level and number of terrorist actions within the Strip boundaries have risen over the past three months. According to Hendel, the data reported on 21 August by the Southern Command commander about a large decline in the number of terrorist acts since the establishment of autonomy do not include long-range shooting, roadside bombs, and similar incidents. Tzvi Hendel said that Border Police officers want to quit the joint Border Police-Palestinian police patrols since they are humiliated by the Palestinians and cope with an impossible task. Council Chairman Tzvi Hendel states that according to the Southern Command commander and the division commander, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces], on several occasions handed over to the Palestinian police commanders the exact identity and location of the wanted Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] people, but the Palestinians did not lift a finger to detain these wanted people.

Hendel complained about arms dealing/trading. The Palestinian policemen sell arms to terrorists in the Strip, as, so Hendel claims, he learned from senior IDF officers.

We appealed to the IDF spokesman for a reaction to these claims by the Hof 'Aza regional council head, but have not yet heard from him. [end recording]

Palestinian Police Said Releasing Murder Suspects

TA2408132794 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 24 Aug 94 pp 1, 19

[Report by David Regev]

[Excerpt] Israeli defense sources yesterday disclosed that the Palestinian security forces in the Gaza Strip have captured the murderers of three IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers, but released them soon after questioning.

On 20 May, just before 0500, a Palestinian Peugeot arrived at the Erez checkpoint. Two Islamic Jihad terrorists who were inside the car drew their weapons and shot to death at very close range two reserve soldiers, Moshe Buqra and Erez Ben-Barukh, who were manning an IDF post by the road. The two died on the spot, and the terrorists fled back to the Gaza Strip.

This attack took place only some 24 hours after the IDF redeployment following its withdrawal from Gaza was completed.

Based on information received, the names of the perpetrators were given to the Palestinian security forces. Israeli security sources reported they have learned that the two were arrested by the Palestinian police a few days later, but were released after being held for questioning for several days.

In another incident, on 19 July 1994, Lieutenant Gay 'Ovadyah was shot to death by terrorists while patrolling the Israeli-Egyptian border fence. Three Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] terrorists were detained a few days later on suspicion of involvement in the attack, but they too were released a few days later.

Palestinian sources have reported that they are aware of arrests and discharges that followed the two incidents, but there is no certainty that the suspects detained were the perpetrators.

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Official Palestinian police sources yesterday denied the above remarks. According to them, the perpetrators have not yet been apprehended, and police are searching for them.

A military source at the Gaza Strip last night confirmed that the Palestinian security forces have detained and subsequently released Palestinian terrorists who were involved in the murder of the Erez checkpoint soldiers. There is, however, no certainty that the three Hamas men who were detained are connected to the officer's murder.

"The Palestinians are in charge of the territory of the Gaza Strip, and they are the ones who conduct arrests of and discharge terrorists," another military sources said. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Treatment of 'Collaborators' Noted

TA2508050094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0400 GMT 25 Aug 94

[Text] A senior security source has said that the way in which the Palestinian Authority deals with suspected collaborators encourages the Palestinian population to attack them. The senior source told our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem that Israel will not tolerate these attacks, which are a violation of the Cairo agreements.

IDF Clamps Curfew on Central Hebron

TA2608104794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 26 Aug 94

[Excerpt] The Israeli Army has imposed a curfew on the center of Hebron after disturbances broke out there this morning. Groups of youths stoned Israeli soldiers who fired shots to disperse them, wounding two people. Several youths were arrested. [passage omitted]

IDF Closes Mosque, Imposes Partial Closure

TA2608051794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 26 Aug 94

[Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] imposed a partial closure on Ramallah this morning and closed the Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir mosque in the center of town. Defense establishment sources told our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem that the closure, designed to prevent disturbances following this afternoon's prayers in the mosques, will be in effect for two days.

Arab Knesset Member on Planned Iraqi Contacts

MM2608085294 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 25 Aug 94 p3

[Report by 'Ali al-Salih: "An Arab Knesset Member Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: 'I Sought a Meeting With Iraq's UN Representative; It Is a Personal Initiative Which Has Nothing To Do With the Israeli Government'"]

[Text] London—'Abd-al-Wahhab Darawshah, an Arab member of the Israeli Knesset, has confirmed reports that he was making attempts to meet with Nizar Hamdun, Iraq's ambassador at the United Nations. He said: "There is an attempt to arrange a meeting with Hamdun at the end of this current week." He added: "I have faxed a message to the Iraqi ambassador about my wish to meet with him, and his secretary replied that he would send his reply soon."

In a telephone interview with AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT from the United States where he is on a private visit, Darawshah denied that his initiative was made on official instructions or by arrangement with the Israeli Government. He emphasized that it is "a personal initiative." He added: "I did not request the Israeli Government's approval. The initiative was made in coordination with some oriental Jewish leaders."

On the purpose of the meeting, Darawshah said that he has "some ideas I want to discuss with the Iraqi ambassador." He added: "I want to discuss the idea of my paying a visit to Iraq at the head of a 20-member delegation, half Arabs and half oriental Jews, especially Iraqi [Jews] from the peace movements."

Darawshah had said in another statement that "we are in the era of peace and, therefore, should talk about peace, face the future, and forget the pains of the past." He added that "at any rate, Iraqi President Saddam Husayn should forget the bombing of the Tammuz reactor on 7 June 1981."

Darawshah expects to receive a positive reply from the Iraqi ambassador.

Asked about the objectives of the visit, should it materialize, he replied: "We hope to achieve three objectives by the visit. The first is to see the situation in Iraq closely in order to influence world public opinion in favor of lifting the blockade imposed on the Iraqi people. The second is to try to wield some influence for the inclusion of Iraq in the peace process because there can be no comprehensive and lasting peace without Iraq. And the third is this: As the delegation would include some Iraqi Jews, there is a desire to look at the condition of the Jewish community in Iraq. The information available to us indicates that the Jews are well-treated but we would like to verify that."

On the reasons which motivated him to take this initiative in the current circumstances, he said: "There are political factors which lend credibility to such a move."

Asked if the initiative had anything to do with the Israeli and Jordanian statements about opening the way for dialogue with Iraq, he said "there is a connection with Israeli, Iraqi, international, and Arab statements and with the progress made on the Arab-Israeli peace tracks." He added that "the circumstances in the Middle East and the world are more favorable for this initiative to

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produce positive results in the interests of Iraq, international relations, and the peace process."

Darawshah denied any knowledge of world agency reports of secret contacts in New York between Iraqi and Israeli officials. He said: I only know what I see in the media.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin had, on 14 August, completely ruled out any Israeli contacts with Baghdad and denied Israeli television reports that Iraqi President Saddam Husayn had held contacts with Israel in favor of peace through a third party. Israeli Police Minister Moshe Shahal said that Israel would need Washington's approval before making any such contacts. Shahal had, before Rabin's statements, urged the government to explore the possibilities of peace with Iraq.

Hassan Envoy Invites Rabin to Morocco Conference

TA2608042894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 26 Aug 94

[Text] A special envoy of Morocco's King Hassan has arrived in Israel and formally invited Prime Minister Rabin to participate in the World Economic Conference for Middle Eastern Development, which is due to be held at the end of October. Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres is due to receive an invitation today.

The talks are sponsored by U.S. President Clinton and Russian President Yeltsin. The aim of the conference is to encourage foreign investment in the region in order to foster the peace process.

Foreign Ministry Director General Uri Savir left last night for Morocco to hold preparatory meetings in Casablanca.

Arab Council Leaders End Five-Week Strike

TA2508121094 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 25 Aug 94 p 1

[Report by David Rudge]

[Text] Israeli Arab council leaders ended their five-week-old strike last night, after an agreement to consolidate the deficits of their debt-ridden local authorities was reached in lengthy talks with Finance Minister Avraham Shohat.

"It's a great pity it took so long, but thank goodness the matter is now settled," said Husayn Sulayman, spokesman for the forum of Arab council heads.

Under the agreement, the Interior Ministry will grant NIS [new Israeli shekels] 50 million to the 53 Arab councils to help cover deficits of more than NIS 200m. The balance is covered by approved loans and local taxes.

It was also agreed to establish a special committee to investigate the requirements of Arab towns and villages, as well as discrimination in funding for regular and development budgets of the councils. "The committee is to make its report within six months and the findings will be binding on all sides," said Sulayman.

The compromise was achieved with the help of Union of Local Authorities Chairman 'Adi Eldar.

"We can now dismantle the protest tent opposite the Prime Minister's Office," Sulayman added.

NRP Young Guard Calls for Ideological Changes

TA2508122994 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 25 Aug 94 p A12

[Report by party affairs correspondent Yerah Tal]

[Text] The National Religious Party's [NRP] young guard demands that the party's top echelons be rejuvenated and that at least three new prominent figures be added to its leadership and the next list of Knesset candidates. This was stated in a conference held recently at the preparatory school for the Bene 'Aqiva yeshivot at Kibbutz Giv'at Shmu'el.

The conference was attended by several dozen NRP convention members who were elected recently, most of whom belong to the young guard. Another demand made at the conference urged an "ideological refreshment" of the party's platform.

Attorney Nahum Langenthal, chairman of the NRP young guard, called on the party to open its ranks and incorporate in them people who had quit the Tehiya, Moledet, and Likud movements, as well as Memad supporters "to allow the NRP institutions and platform to express the entire spectrum of the typical opinions of the entire national-religious public.

According to Langenthal, "it is the NRP's duty to raise the banners of social and economic welfare, and of the Jewish culture and ethics, and avoid being trapped in a political corner and portrayed as those who only hoist the Erez Yisra'el banner."

He added that a committee made up of young delegates and yeshiva and township representatives has recently met with NRP Knesset members "in order to examine which of the methods offered for the amendment of the party's regulations and constitution would allow for the personal and ideological rejuvenation that is being called for."

According to him, "the main question today is how to guarantee that the party carry a message of rejuvenation and openness, while taking the needs of the entire national-religious public into consideration, and while genuinely representing all its factions."

In the elections for the NRP convention two months ago, the young guard has doubled its strength and today makes 10 percent of the convention members.

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The conference held at Giv'at Shmu'el was one of many similar meetings held recently as part of the preparations by the NRP and its various components for the series of meetings of the new NRP Convention which will elect the party secretary general and institutions.

Candidates for the NRP secretary general are: Sha'ul Yahalom, Zvulun Orlev, and Shmaryahu Ben-Tzur. Candidates for the post of political secretary are attorney Nahum Langenthal and Uri Elitzur. The first NRP convention meeting will be held on 29 September.

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Party Leader on Pan-Arab Action, Iraqi Embargo

JN2408080194 Baghdad AL-'IRAQ in Arabic 13 Aug 94 p 3

[Interview with Muhammad al-Zu'bi, secretary general of the Pan-Arab Action Front Party in Jordan, by Sulafah al-Zu'bi; place and date not given]

[Text] [S. al-Zu'bi] Could you talk to us about the Pan-Arab Action Front Party in Jordan and the political trends under its banner?

[M. al-Zu'bi] The Pan-Arab Action Front Party is the outcome of a dialogue and discussion among several pan-Arab parties; namely, the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, the Arab Popular Liberation Movement, the Jordanian Revolutionary People's Party, the Democratic Nationalists Party, and a large number of prominent pan-Arabists who are active in the Jordanian arena. The dialogue and discussion resulted in the need to establish a pan-Arab action front party, hence the birth of the front.

The reality which forced the establishment of the pan-Arab front was the need for unification, not only in the Jordanian arena but also on the Arab level. The front is considered the nucleus of a broader pan-Arab front. This is why we raised the question of the establishment of a broader pan-Arab front during our visit to the comrades in the Iraqi Regional Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party. We will work relentlessly and tirelessly in order to establish the pan-Arab front, because it is the natural reply to the challenges and the general collapse in the Arab arena and is essential to confronting the surrender to and the normalization and humiliating agreements with the Zionist enemy.

[S. al-Zu'bi] What is your party's position on what has happened and is happening to the Iraqi people during and after the 30-state aggression?

[M. al-Zu'bi] We in the Pan-Arab Action Front Party believe that President Saddam Husayn embodies the Arab national will. We also believe that the central issue in the current struggle by all honest people in the Arab homeland is lifting the unjust blockade on Iraq. We in the party, as well as the brothers in the Islamic Action Front and the Ba'th Party, are in contact with other parties in order to draw up a practical action plan, not a theoretical plan to study the situation, in order to lift the blockade. Some 14 Jordanian parties have responded to our call. We also addressed an invitation to a delegation from the Iraqi Regional Command to visit Jordan a month ago. The delegation met with several Jordanian parties and officials. However, following the recent rapid developments, especially in the Jordanian arena, our struggle to lift the blockade is now moving side by side with our struggle against the settlement process with the Zionist enemy and the conclusion of agreements with it. Upon our return, we will call upon the political parties to renew their activity and hold contacts with Arab parties in order to convene a meeting and to discuss a practical plan for the sake of lifting the blockade. This may take place during the Arab Popular Forces Conference in Tunis at the end of this year.

What is regrettable, in my opinion, is that the blockade is Arab before being American, or Israeli. Therefore, we appeal and call upon the Arab masses to exert pressure on their governments in order to break the unjust blockade.

[S. al-Zu'bi] Arab national thought and the Arab revolution are facing serious challenges and the Arab situation is witnessing new developments daily. What are your programs for the current and future phases; and how do you formulate your ideological and intellectual conceptions in harmony with these developments and in face of those challenges?

[M. al-Zu'bi] Arab national thought exists and renews itself all the time. No one in the Arab homeland differs on such pan-Arab issues as unity, freedom, and sovereignty of the Arab homeland. The landslides that have occurred recently are the result of official Arab stands. Nevertheless, hope exists at all times. The Arab people today are capable of carrying out their will and asserting their pan-Arab identity by rejecting whatever harms their nation, including agreements with enemies.

[S. al-Zu'bi] What are your methods, as pan-Arab parties, for mobilizing the masses and bolstering their struggle against the attempts to subjugate them and impose U.S. hegemony on our Arab nation?

[M. al-Zu'bi] Generally, all Jordanian parties suffer from a lack of public desire to join these parties. This is because the masses are frustrated for several reasons, which are partly economic but mainly a deliberate attempt to keep out of party politics. This is in addition to the absence of democracy for a long period of time and the fear that the present parties will not continue as they are but revert to the previous status.

On the Arab level, there is cooperation between the Pan-Arab Action Front Party and the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party in Iraq. Our present visit has come in order to strengthen party relations and draw up a future plan of action.

Iran To Pay Phosphate, Fertilizer Debt

JN2108072294 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 21 Aug 94 p 3

[Excerpt] Amman—As a result of talks conducted in Tehran last week by a Jordanian economic and trade delegation, the Iranian government has started making weekly payments, to the Kingdom for phosphate and fertilisers it had bought in 1991 and 1992, according to Ministry of Industry and Trade Secretary general Marwan Awad.

Mr. Awad told the JORDAN TIMES upon his return from Iran Saturday [20 August] that the Tehran government has also agreed to facilitate trade between Jordan

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and Iran, encourage the exchange of visits by businesspersons from the two countries and consented to the formation of a joint business council to encourage dealings between Iranian and Jordan banks.

According to Mr. Awad, Jordan sells Iran an average $25 million worth of phosphate and fertilisers annually and imports $10 million worth of Iranian foodstuffs and several other products.

During the visit Mr. Awad initialled an agreement with Iran on future economic and trade cooperation. The deal will be formally signed in Amman by the concerned ministers in November, Mr. Awad said. [passage omitted]

Poll Shows Support for Washington Declaration

JN2508070294 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 25 Aug 94 p 1

[Report by staff reporter P.V. Vivekanand]

[Text] Amman—Eighty per cent of Jordanians support the Washington Declaration ending the state of belligerency and paving the way for a peace agreement between Jordan and Israel, according to the results of an opinion poll released Wednesday [24 August].

The findings of the poll indicate that those who oppose Jordan's move towards peace with Israel do so mainly based on "doctrinal and ideological" grounds rather than on a belief that the Kingdom would not be able to secure its rights in negotiations with the Jewish state.

The poll, conducted last week, last found that 82.2 per cent believe that Jordan's economy would benefit from making peace with Israel and 69 per cent believe that the Kingdom would be able to secure its territorial and water rights and achieve its security objectives in negotiations with the Jewish state.

The opinion poll was conducted by the Centre for Strategic Studies at the University of Jordan between Aug. 18 and 20 and covered 1,172 "randomly selected people from all over the Kingdom." The target audience included both males and females over the age of 19.

Asked whether they supported or opposed the Washington Declaration, 80.2 per cent said they supported it, 14.1 said they opposed it and 5.7 said they were unsure.

The poll organisers, mindful of grounds for argument by opponents of the peace process, cautioned that support for the declaration could be seen at an absolute level of 72 per cent. They cited the five-per cent margin of error that the survey allowed and the assumption that the five per cent of those polled refused to answer this question opposed the Jordanian-Israeli peace moves as the reasons for the lower figure.

On the other hand, 52.7 per cent of those who opposed the declaration believed that Jordan's economy would improve as a result of peace and 52.4 said Jordan would be able to regain its territorial and water rights from Israel.

"It clearly indicates that a good segment of those who reject making peace with Israel base their positions on ideological and doctrinal positions as well as religious grounds," said Mustafa Hamarnah, director of the Centre for Strategic Studies.

"The ball is clearly in Israel's court," Dr. Hamarnah said in explaining the results of the survey. "Jordanians have optimistic and realistic expectations of the peace negotiations and it is up to Israel to live up to the expectations."

But, Dr. Hamarnah warned, people could change opinion quickly on such a dynamic subject. "If the Taba experience is to be repeated, then that will put a damper on people's enthusiasm over the peace process," Dr. Hamarnah said.

His statement was a reference to the prolonged negotiations over the Taba beach resort that Israel held with Egypt as the final phase of their peacemaking in the early 80s. Israel was widely seen as procrastinating and unwilling to return the Egyptian territory to Egypt. The issue could not be settled in negotiations and had to be resolved by the International Court of Justice, which ruled in favour of Egypt.

The highlights of the findings of the poll were:

—The highest level of support for the Washington Declaration came from the northern governorates with 85.1 per cent; the lowest was in Irbid city with 73.9 per cent.

—84.5 among those with less than elementary education and 83.9 per cent with elementary education supported the declaration.

—82.8 per cent said Jordan's economic situation would improve as a result of the peace process; 5.4 per cent expected no change, 6.6 per cent said it would worsen and 5.2 percent said they did not know.

Among those who said the economy would improve, only 49.4 per cent said the economic benefits would be visible in the short term.

—89 per cent of those who supported the Washington Declaration and 52.7 per cent of those who opposed it said yes when asked if Jordan would get economic benefits from the peace process.

—Asked whether they believed Jordan would regain its land, 71.2 per cent of all those polled said yes, 17.5 per cent said no and 11.3 per cent said they were unsure.

—76.1 per cent of those who supported the peace process and 52.7 per cent of those who opposed it said they believed Jordanian land would be regained.

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—On the same question in relation to Jordan's water rights, 75.9 per cent of all the target audience said the Kingdom would get its full share of water, 15.7 said no and 8.4 per cent were unsure.

—82 per cent of those supported the negotiations with Israel and 52.1 per cent of those who opposed the talks also said they believed Jordan would be able to secure its water rights.

—Asked whether Jordan would be able to achieve its security objectives, 68.3 per cent of the audience said yes, 22.2 per cent said no and 11.5 per cent were unsure.

—74.3 of those who supported the peace process and 43 per cent who opposed it also said they believed Jordan would be able to achieve its security objectives.

—9.6 of those polled said they opposed the peace process because they believed that no just peace could be achieved; 8.4 per cent said they opposed it on religious grounds, 2.2 per cent said they based their opposition on economic grounds, 2.9 per cent cited moral reasons; 0.6 per cent cited other reasons and one per cent cited no specific reason (the survey had room for more than one reason to be cited by each and hence the disproportionate percentages).

—Asked whether the peace process would contribute to the realisation of the rights of "displaced" Palestinians, 57.8 per cent said yes, 22.5 per cent said no and 11.5 per cent were unsure.

—Replying to the same question in relation to the rights of Palestinian "refugees," 43 per cent said yes, 36.8 per cent said no and 20.1 per cent were unsure.

The Centre of Strategic Studies has conducted several opinion polls in Jordan, including one shortly before the 1993 general elections. The results of that survey proved mostly accurate when the actual elections took place.

'Jordanian Afghans' Trial To Begin

JN2508124694 Amman AKHBAR AL-USBU' in Arabic 25 Aug 94 pp 1,18

[Report by Fawzi al-Bandari]

[Text] It was officially announced in Amman that on Saturday [27 August] the State Security Court will begin to try the "Jordanian Afghans," whose trial was adjourned upon the request of the defense counsel until the end of the judiciary holiday. There are 25 defendants in this case, three of whom are still at large.

The State Security Court is chaired by Colonel Hafiz Amin, assisted by Major Tayil al-Raqqad and Major Fawwaz al-Buqur, the court members. Public Prosecutor Major Muhannad Hijazi leveled the following charges against the defendants:

1. Membership in an illegal society in violation of Articles 159 and 160 of the Penal Code No. 16 for the year 1960, regarding all the defendants.

2. Involvement in a plot with the purpose of committing terrorist acts in violation of Articles 147 and 148 of the said Penal Code.

3. Possession of explosives "acetone pyroxene and dynamite" with the purpose of using them illegally in violation of Article 12/2 of the Explosives Law No. 12 for the year 1953 and its amendments.

In the wake of the explosions, the security forces carried out investigations and, helped by one of the organization members who was injured in an explosion, managed to unearth the organization responsible for them. The captured member confessed to his crime and the rest of the organization members were then rounded up. A search of their houses and stores resulted in the confiscation of a Kalashnikov rifle and 100 bullets; two silencers; a bomb timer; two kg of acetone pyroxene; and a number of clocks, batteries, and wires used in explosives; a hunting rifle with 252 rounds; a Kalashnikov with 58 rounds; 60 dynamite sticks; and a number of books and pamphlets. One of these books gave instructions on how to make explosives.

The trial is expected to last several months due to the large number of defendants, the 15 witnesses who will testify before the court, the 30 lawyers who will defend them, not to mention the developments that may take place during the trial.

Editorial Says Kingdom Needs 'Radical' Reform

JN2108070994 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 21 Aug 94 p 3

[Editorial: "Effort for New Climate"]

[Text] As the London-based Baring Securities Limited concluded in a report on Jordan it published recently, the Kingdom has a very good potential for becoming a centre of attraction for international investment if only the government could liberalise the economy and improve conditions for investment. Situated at the centre of the east Mediterranean Arab region, blessed with a modern, though moderate, telecommunication infrastructure and a motivated and relatively educated workforce, Jordan could easily be turned into the Singapore of the Middle East, the report said.

Recent developments in this part of the world and the new dawn of peace are catching the attention of many potential investors, who, like Baring Securities, are looking for fresh markets for international investment. And being the logical gateway to the newly proclaimed autonomous Palestinian areas that need billions of dollars of investment in all sorts of infrastructure projects, Jordan could become the factory for Palestinian needs. Furthermore, the promise of an integrated Middle East

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region will certainly heat the economies of the region, accelerate growth and enhance competition.

Within these parametres Jordan should not sit idle waiting for the fruits to fall on their own. A great deal of reform is needed.

Unfortunately reform has eluded us for many years. Commission after commission was formed in the past 20 years only to produce no, or little tangible progress. Neither the commissions for administrative reform nor those entrusted with cutting down on red tape has shown real success. In a country in which the state employs almost half of the workforce, the forces that resist change are formidable. Despite the fact that almost all state-run enterprises and services are suffering from inefficiency and bureaucracy, all calls for change seem to fall on deaf ears.

The last resort that we would like to pin hope on these days is the formation of the Royal Commission for Reform and Modernisation, headed by His Royal Highness the Crown Prince. After the failure of all past governments to effect genuine change, the leadership seems now to be determined to take charge of an awesome task. We hope that the present Royal Commission will not meet the same fate as its predecessors did. For that to happen and for the commission to achieve its aims, we believe that an auxiliary of qualified and visionary Jordanians should be set up to probe work in all areas of government activity and propose immediate solutions and measures to reform both the bureaucracy and the economy.

Perhaps we no longer should believe in the viability of radical solutions. But the urgency and the challenges presented by fast moving developments in the region and world-wide dictate that we take radical steps to put the country on the right path to the future.

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Plan To House Palestinians Elicits Various Views

Al-Hariri Defends Plan

NC2508152994 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1400 GMT 25 Aug 94

[Text] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri has stated that the campaign being launched against the housing of the displaced Palestinians is unjustified because what Refugee Affairs Minister Walid Junblatt is doing is within the framework of the plan designed to return the displaced [Lebanese] people to their homes. This is because it is impossible to return the displaced Palestinians to their original camps in several areas.

Al-Hariri pointed out that this step only involves housing the Palestinians who were forced out of specific refugee camps in Lebanon, but the other Palestinian refugees will remain in their camps. He noted that it is not possible to solve the problem of all displaced people without solving the problem of displaced Palestinians who live in apartments in Beirut and other areas. He praised Minister Junblatt's efforts in this respect, saying that he is an effective cabinet member and an outstanding political leader who makes praiseworthy efforts. We must not view these serious efforts with such frivolity. He stressed that this issue will be discussed at the cabinet's next session.

Samahah Questions Responsibility

NC2508180094 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 25 Aug 94

[Excerpts] Information Minister Michel Samahah has called for an extraordinary cabinet session to discuss the housing of Palestinians in Lebanon. He asserted that this issue cannot be negotiated on the bilateral level but is a collective Arab responsibility, pointing out that any discussion of this affair on the sidelines of the negotiations or at the expense of the negotiations signifies that a resettlement scheme is afoot.

Samamah remarked that housing the Palestinians has no connection with returning displaced Lebanese citizens to their homes.

During a news conference he held at his villa in al-Jiwar today, he expressed fears that the terms now being used in speeches delivered to certain Lebanese sects and constituencies are designed to undermine the country's stability which is a basic requirement for returning the displaced citizens to their homes. [passage omitted]

Following are some of Samahah remarks:

[Begin Samahah recording] We have been hearing announcements about housing the Palestinians in Lebanon. All of a sudden, this issue is being raised to a priority footing. The term "housing" does not apply to the Palestinians. This term cannot be used in the context of a temporary solution to a problem that is currently part of the ongoing regional peace negotiations. The problem cannot be dealt with separately from the current peace process, which must produce a just and comprehensive peace.

We must stop dealing with the Palestinian affair as if it were a local commodity which we can use to threaten others with. Nor should our handling of the affair merely take the form of appeasing the Palestinians. It is an issue of national identity, for which we are responsible to the same degree as the others are responsible in the context of the peace negotiations. If the current Palestinian officials—Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] and his group—are facing a predicament in the negotiations, the solution to Abu-'Ammar's plight is not to be found in Lebanon. It cannot be solved by a personal decision.

Nor is this whole affair something for which we are solely responsible. The sponsors of the peace conference are responsible for this affair. Let us not bear the responsibility alone for the economic and financial consequences of this affair. When the negotiations lead to a just peace and we start discussing the refugee affair at the multilateral talks, the two sponsors of the peace conference will shoulder the responsibility, as indeed they should, of housing the Palestinians on their own national territory or providing another agreed-upon solution. [end recording]

Radio: Plan 'Suspect Scheme'

NC2508183294 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 25 Aug 94

[Excerpts] The suspect schemes and resettlement efforts, whose banner is being raised by Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri and which are being implemented by Minister Walid Junblatt, have now been exposed.

The attempt to push through a scheme of such magnitude in return for lining one's pockets is no longer a secret. The policy of financial hegemony and the revived use of wartime catch phrases are of no use because this kind of talk is gone forever and those who use it are blowing into exhausted trumpets. [passage omitted]

It is noticeable that the cabinet has not been called for a meeting to discuss the situation, which shows that a suspect plan exists to push through certain deals without the cabinet's approval.

The prime minister who, as is his custom, tries to sidestep and escape any criticism of his suspect plans, responded to the question on whether this is a resettlement by remarking: This is tasteless talk.

At the same time, he continues implementing his scheme.

While taking care to evacuate buildings in Beirut to complete the property redevelopment company's project, he announced that it is not possible to solve the problem of all the displaced citizens without first solving the problem of the displaced Palestinians who now occupy some apartments in the capital.

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Junblatt, the executor of the suspect scheme, does not hesitate to respond to Information Minister Michel Samahah's announcement that the land for this purpose has not been bought by declaring again today: The land has been purchased. I am in charge of this affair with al-Hariri.

Phalangist Leader Criticizes Plan

NC2608133694 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 26 Aug 94

[Text] Phalangist Party leader Dr. George Sa'adah has expressed his surprise that the issue of settling the Palestinian refugees is considered to be a private affair among the president of the Republic, the prime minister, and Refugees Affairs Minister Junblatt, as Junblatt has said. He expressed even more surprise that the president of the Republic agrees with what is going on, because, according to the Constitution, the president of the Republic is the symbol and head of state and takes care to maintain and respect the Constitution. Sa'adah said the issue infringes the essence of the Constitution and that events are a prelude to settling the Palestinians in Lebanon.

Dr. Sa'adah called on the president of the Republic to exercise his role and full powers to safeguard the Constitution, because events threaten common coexistence and the Constitution. Sa'adah asked: Where is the constitutional text that says there will be no partitioning of the country and no settling [of the Palestinians]. Sa'adah said the incumbent government seems to be striking at the clauses approved in the National Accord Document. He warned that the government's persistence with this course poses a danger to national security in Lebanon and to coexistence. He said it seems as if the prime minister is heading the Cabinet in dividing plots of land and annexing them here or there. This is happening in downtown Beirut and in the buildings allocated for settling the Palestinians. This process has even reached the Cabinet, where particular appointed ministers deal with issues that contradict the Constitution and others join the bandwagon of those who sing the praises of any project no matter how dangerous.

Hamas Delegation Rejects Plan

NC2608115194 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 26 Aug 94

[Text] The Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, delegation has rejected the idea on the resettlement of the Palestinians. In an official statement prior to its departure from Beirut, the delegation noted that there is no alternative to Palestine. The delegation affirmed Lebanon's unity and territorial integrity.

The Hamas delegation calls for granting the Palestinians their legitimate civic and human rights, stressing that the resistance option in Palestine as in Lebanon is a strategic option dictated by the presence of the Israeli occupation.

Prime Minister Leaves for France on Private Visit

NC2508193694 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1900 GMT 25 Aug 94

[Text] We have learned a short while ago that Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri left at 2155 for Nice, in southern France, on a private two-day visit.

'Infiltrators' Identified as PFLP-DFLP Wing Members

NC2508071794 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 25 Aug 94

[Text] According to security sources, the two fighters whose bodies were discovered near al-Qantarah in the central sector yesterday were members of the unified military wing formed recently by the George Habash-led Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] and the Nayif Hawatimah-led Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP].

The two fighters were killed by an Israeli patrol as they tried to infiltrate northern Israel.

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Voting in People's Assembly Elections Ends

JN2508135094 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 25 Aug 94

[Excerpt] The casting of votes for the sixth legislative term of the People's Assembly elections ended at 1400 today.

All ballot boxes were closed so that vote counting can begin in preparation for declaring the official and final results.

Turnout on the second day of voting was good amid an atmosphere of freedom, democracy, and honest competition among the candidates to win the confidence of voters. [passage omitted]

Voting To Repeat in 3 Districts

JN2508193394 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 25 Aug 94

[Text] Interior Minister Dr. Muhammad Harbah has said that vote counting began in the 15 Syrian constituencies after the ballot boxes closed at 1400 today.

The minister said the total number of Syrians who cast their votes in the these constituencies, according to the electoral lists at the voting centers, reached 3,693,656 out of a total of 7,337,885 of those eligible to vote in accordance with the General Elections Law.

The minister said that from this total number of Syrian voters some Syrians living abroad were unable to cast their votes, in addition to another number of citizens whose right to vote is withheld, such as military personnel and policemen.

The interior minister emphasized that the elections took place in a sound democratic atmosphere amid honest competition between candidates, and that calm and order prevailed, as well as a high sense of responsibility by all.

He said that out of eagerness to maintain the soundness of the election process the Central Committee of the Damascus Constituency decided to repeat the voting in three voting centers—the Central Bank Center No. 433, the Refrigeration and Storing Establishment Center No. 584, and the Transportation Directorate Center No. 612 due to their violation of the election instructions. The repeat balloting began at 0700 today, Thursday, and will continue until 1400 tomorrow for the Central Bank center. Repeat balloting will begin at 0700 tomorrow, Friday, until 1400 next Saturday for the Transportation Directorate and Refrigeration and Storing Establishment centers.

Voting in these three centers will be restricted to voters whose names appear on the electoral lists of these centers, in accordance with the provisions of the General Elections Law.

Al-Shar' 'Indirectly' Condemns Kurdish Party

NC2508183794 Istanbul HURRIYET in Turkish 23 Aug 94 p 20

[Report by Selin Caglayan: "Damascus Harps the Same Tune"]

[Text] Damascus—Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' has indirectly condemned the Workers Party of Kurdistan [PKK]. Replying to a question put to him by the Turkish journalists in Damascus as to whether or not he regards "the PKK as a terrorist organization," al-Shar' recalled a provision in the joint communique that was issued at the end of the tripartite meeting in Damascus. He said: "We condemn whatever you describe as terrorism."

Stressing that Syria attaches great importance to Turkey's territorial integrity, al-Shar' asserted: "We are opposed to separatism. That applies to Yemen, Iraq, and Turkey. That is a principled approach."

The journalists asked al-Shar' the following: "Can your remarks be convincing when reports say that PKK leader Abdullah Ocalan is in Syria?" He replied that "Ocalan is not in Syria." He said that several journalists have published fictitious reports and phony photographs claiming that Ocalan is in Syria. Stressing that Turkey and his country have common interests, al-Shar' asserted that journalists have an important task to perform in the effort to improve the relations between the two countries.

The Al-Asad-Soysal Meeting

President al-Asad received Foreign Minister Mumtaz Soysal and conferred with him for 90 minutes yesterday. In a statement on the meeting, al-Shar' said that al-Asad informed Soysal that "whatever harms Turkey also harms Syria and whatever harms Syria also harms Turkey."

Speaking after the meeting, Soysal said that the main problems between the two countries were discussed. He also said that a sincere exchange of views took place. Asserting that he had informed al-Asad that the relations between the two countries must not be impeded by two difficult problems, Soysal noted: "We have agreed to take up and resolve all the problems between the two countries, starting with the easiest ones and moving on to the most difficult problems. We agreed that the solution of the problems between Turkey and Syria will significantly contribute toward cooperation and peace in the region."

Stressing that the problem of terrorism also was discussed during the meeting, Soysal said that the two sides agreed that the two countries must conclude agreements on all bilateral problems, including the question of transnational waters.

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Economy Minister Receives Egyptian Counterpart

JN2508200394 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 25 Aug 94

[Text] Dr. Muhammad al-'Imadi, minister of economy and foreign trade, this morning received Mahmud Muhammad Bayyumi, Egyptian minister of economy and foreign trade.

Talks dealt with brotherly bilateral relations of cooperation, especially in economic fields.

Al-'Imadi and Bayyumi emphasized their eagerness to develop bilateral economic and trade relations, and open new horizons for this cooperation in a way that reflects the deep brotherly relations between the Syrian and Egyptian people.

Talks also dealt with the activities of the Syrian-Egyptian Joint Committee for Economic Cooperation, and the achievements realized by this committee.

Paper Criticizes PLO-Israeli Empowerment Talks

JN2608065494 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 26 Aug 94

[From the press review]

[Text] TISHRIN today discusses the negotiations between the PLO and Israel on the transfer of civilian powers to the Palestinians in the West Bank. The paper notes statements by Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al- Shafi, former head of the Palestinian delegation to the Washington talks, who said the agreement to transfer civilian powers to the Palestinians in the West Bank gave Israel the final say in all matters. In fact, General Dani Rothschild, coordinator of the Israeli administration in the West Bank, declared that the only real authority on the ground remained in Israel's hands and that the Self-Rule Authority's role does not go beyond providing services to citizens.

The paper notes that expanding the self-rule areas preserved the occupation, its military installations, and all of its troops. The new agreement does not mention anything about removing the Israeli soldiers from West Bank towns and redeploying them to certain areas, as was the case in Gaza and Jericho.

TISHRIN stresses that 'Arafat's leadership has not achieved any of the aspirations of the Palestinian people, the most pressing of which are the Israeli withdrawal and ending the nightmare of Zionist oppression.

The paper says: Because bad beginnings lead to catastrophic results, the Self-Rule Authority has indeed become a catastrophe. Israel is the real master, the decision-maker, and the vigilant watcher. Nothing can happen behind its back or without its approval.

TISHRIN concludes by saying: Syria knows exactly what the Israelis' intentions and plans are. It stuck to its declared position: No relinquishment, no bargaining, and no peace without a full Israeli withdrawal and the implementation of the resolutions of international legitimacy. Syria wants a genuine, honorable peace that will return land and rights.

Paper Says Israel Must Not 'Remain Above the Law'

JN2608083694 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 26 Aug 94

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Peace And The Need For Credibility," AL-BA'TH stresses that cooperation with peace and the efforts exerted to achieve it requires seriousness to confront the aggressor and impartiality to deal with the events. But allowing Israel to remain above the law and do what others cannot, will obstruct and dissolve efforts.

The paper notes that in more than one forum, documented reports were presented to confirm that Israel is violating international laws, human rights, and the ethics mankind has agreed upon. Despite all this, Israel has escaped condemnation. Each day, Israel kills children, destroys houses and buildings, and besieges villages.

The paper adds: The expected peace in the Middle East cannot be based on Israeli military might. Peace in the region must be based on the exchange of land for peace and it must adopt international legitimacy as its foundation and base.

AL-BA'TH notes that the Arab boycott [of Israel] was dictated by the continued Israeli aggression against the Arabs. It cannot end without ending the cause that brought it into being. Opening borders, overlooking the past, and creating a new reality are all linked to the Israeli aggressors' implementation of the international resolutions and recommendations that reject the occupation of others' territory.

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India

Compelling Pakistan To Abandon Nuclear Arms Urged

BK2508160094 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 25 Aug 94

[Text] India is mobilizing the international community over the nuclear threat posed by Pakistan. Making a statement in both houses of parliament today, the minister of state for external affairs, Mr. Salman Khursheed, said that government will maintain utmost vigil and act decisively and firmly to thwart any danger to national security. Referring to Mr. Nawaz Sharif's statement on Pakistan possessing an atomic bomb, he said the time has come for the international community to ensure that Pakistan behaves as a responsible member of the comity of nations. Mr. Khursheed said Pakistan should be forthwith compelled to abandon its nuclear weapons program. The minister deplored Pakistan's record of aiding and abetting international terrorism and subversion.

Reaction to Killing of Bombay BJP President Noted

Rao, Advani Condemn Killing

BK2508163494 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 25 Aug 94

[Excerpts] The Bombay BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] unit president, Mr. Ramdas Nayak, and his security gaurd were shot dead in the metropolis this morning. The assailants, who came in a motorcycle, pumped bullets from automatic weapons through the car in which he was travelling at Bandra. Rushed to the hospital, Mr. Nayak was declared brought dead. Our Bombay correspondent, quoting police sources, reports that the assailants escaped in the same motorcycle and later on in a scooter. Police recovered two AK-56 rifles from the scooter abandoned at Khar railway station. [passage omitted]

The BJP president, Mr. L.K. Advani, has held the criminalization of politics responsible for the murder of his party colleague, Mr. Nayak, in Bombay. He asked the state government to accept the offer of the center [federal government] to hand over the case to the CBI [Central Bureau of Investigation]. Speaking to reporters in New Delhi today, he alleged that there is a nexus between the mafia and those in authority in the state.

The prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, has expressed deep shock and anguish at the dastardly killing of Mr. Ramdas Nayak. The prime minister said that the savage and uncivilized act will be condemned by one and all.

Bombay Strike Protests Killing

BK2608093094 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 26 Aug 94

[Text] The bundh [strike] in Bombay has been by and large peaceful so far barring a few incidents of stone throwing. The call has been given by the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party]-Shiv Sena combine to protest over the brutal murder of the party's city president yesterday. Our correspondent reports that suburban trains and the state run buses are plying as usual with fewer commuters. There has been no major rescheduling of suburban and out station trains except the cancellation of a few trains running on the central railway route. Three persons suffered minor injuries while 28 buses were partially damaged in the stone pelting. Attendance in offices and other establishments is, however, thin. The Bombay Stock Exchange was officially opened today but there was no trading due to thin attendance.

Cost Forces Delhi To Delay Atomic Energy Projects

BK2508125794 Delhi THE ECONOMIC TIMES in English 20 Aug 94 p 24

[Text] The government proposes to put on hold all atomic energy expansion projects. In this context, the Atomic Energy Corporation's Rs 8,000-crore [rupees] Tarapur expansion plan is believed to have been deferred.

The Corporation had sought funds to set up a 1,000 mw unit at Tarapur for the second stage project. The finance ministry is not responding to the request on the plea of paucity of funds. It is believed that PMO [Prime Minister's Office], too, is not happy with the performance of the nuclear power plants.

The rethinking on atomic energy expansion plan has become imperative as the group of ministers on project implementation has recommended that long delayed projects with massive cost overruns should be reviewed.

At present, there are seven nuclear power projects under implementation. These projects were expected to cost Rs 3,020.7 crore. However, their costs have now been estimated at Rs 6,366.8 crore, a cost escalation of 110 per cent. Experts fear further escalation as the projects are running behind schedule. Of the seven projects, three are facing cost overruns. These three were originally expected to cost Rs 1,824.8 crore and the revised cost estimate is Rs 5,717 crore, an escalation of 213 per cent.

The much delayed projects RAPP [Rajasthan Atomic Power Plant] three and four, with 700 mw capacity, were expected to be completed by November 1995. These projects were now expected to be commissioned by October 1997. Another delayed project is Kaiga with two units of 235 mw. It will be completed by December 1996 against the December 1995 schedule.

Besides a long gestation period, the efficiency of nuclear projects has been far below the world standards. The plant load factor of the commissioned units averages around 40 per cent against the world average of 60 per cent and 80 per cent.

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The planners feel that instead of pumping money into these projects, it would be better to finance hydel and thermal projects with far less gestation period and higher efficiency.

Iran

Indian Commerce Minister on Visit

Meets With Rafsanjani

LD2508123494 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 25 Aug 94

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani today received Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, India's minister of commerce and foreign trade.

In this meeting, the president considered as positive the existing potential for expanding bilateral cooperation in the technical, economic, and commercial fields. He stressed the need for the industrialists and the private sectors of both countries to familiarize themselves with this potential, to make the expansion of ties possible.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani said that alleviating the existing tension between India and Pakistan was in the interest of the region and the world. He added: The inception of extensive political, economic, and commercial cooperation between major and powerful countries of Asia can materialize when there is peace, stability, and coordination between all the countries of the region.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani said that the large Muslim population in India was the factor that drew the attention of the world of Islam to that country. Referring to unity and cooperation between all Indian ethnic groups in the history of Indian revolution, he said: The world of Islam is keen to see that with the might of the Indian Government a suitable model of peaceful coexistence of all Indian religious groups is created.

The president, moreover, alluded to the historical and cultural background to relations between the two major countries of Iran and India, and stressed the need to preserve and strengthen the common cultural and historial traits with the aim of further consolidating bilateral. In this meeting, the minister of commerce and foreign trade of India, in turn, said that the regional and international role of Iran in consolidating international peace and stability was very important. Referring to Iran's extensive advancements, in particular during the recent years, he called for boosting and broadening bilateral cooperation on the basis of the two countries' common cultural and historical traits.

Addressing our country's president, he said: The government and nation of India are impatiently awaiting your excellency's visit to India.

The Indian commerce minister considers the role of Indian Muslims in the country's history as highly significant, and paid tribute to the principled stances of the Islamic Republic of Iran toward cooperation in the region and in international forums. He said: We believe that through negotiations and by peaceful means we can resolve our dispute with Pakistan over Kashmir and prevent the further spread of the conflict. Mr. Al-Eshaq, our commerce minister, was also present in this meeting.

Meets Velayati

LD2508191594 Tehran IRIB Television Third Program Network in Persian 1815 GMT 25 Aug 94

[Text] Pranab Mukherjee, the visiting Indian minister of commerce and foreign trade, called on Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati today. During the meeting the Indian official described as satisfactory the trend of mutual political ties, pointing out that in the near future cooperation among the Third World countries, the developing states in particular, will be necessary.

He later referred to his country's ties with the Commonwealth of Independent States, especially the Central Asian countries, remarking that India has come to the conclusion that access to the Central Asian market can be achieved through Iran.

Meanwhile, Mr. Velayati welcomed the upgrading of reciprocal ties and mentioned that during his recent trip to Central Asia, agreements were reached in the fields of gas, transport, and transfer of the Central Asian states' commodities to other countries. The Iranian foreign minister added that Iran can play a significant role in helping the regional states make use of the international market and vice versa.

Discusses Ties With Counterpart

LD2508213894 Tehran IRNA in English 2053 GMT 25 Aug 94

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 25, IRNA—The visiting Indian Minister of Commerce Pranab Mukherjee met here today with his Iranian counterpart Yahya ol-Eshaq and discussed the expansion of trade ties between Tehran and New Delhi.

In this meeting, Yahya ol-Eshaq referring to the old relations between the two countries, said that India is a major trade partner of Iran and Tehran wants to expand its relations with New Delhi.

He stressed that the two countries should pay attention to the big projects such as transit of goods between India and the Central Asian republics via Iranian territory especially since the shipping line already existed between Iran and India.

"Iranian and Indian merchants are interested to cooperate with each other, but the new resources should be introduced to them," he said.

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He also added "the Islamic Republic is ready to purchase tea, rice and jute from India and we want the Indian authorities to allow a special facilities for Iran."

Elsewhere in his talks ol-Eshaq expressed Iranian willingness for sharing the Indian experience in the area of General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and asked for Indian presence in the Iranian trade exhibitions.

Mukherjee referred to cultural and literary ties between Iran and India and hoped for trade relations to be expanded between the two countries.

He said that the volume of trade exchange between the two sides is already at dlrs [dollars] 400 million to 450 million in a year which with the existing facilities in both countries this figure is very low and the maximum of existing facilities should be used to raise the volume of trade exchange between the two countries.

Regarding acceptance of the GATT's membership by Iran he said "if Iran becomes a member of the GATT, India will share all its experience with Iran."

Regarding a joint venture between Iran and India, he said that India through joint investment can manufacture auto parts and export them to the third countries and the chambers of commerce should be instituted to help realize the trade goals set for Iran and India. He also invited Iranian merchants to take part in India's 1994 trade exhibition.

Bosnian Group Arrives, Holds 'Substantive' Talks

AU2508204194 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1700 GMT 25 Aug 94

[Text] A Bosnia-Herzegovina state delegation has arrived in Iran.

The delegation, headed by Foreign Minister Irfan Ljubijankic, arrived in Tehran where it held substantive talks. Dr. Mirko Pejanovic, member of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Presidency, met with Deputy Foreign Minister (Vazi) [name as heard]. On that occasion they emphasized the need to include the Iranian diplomacy in the talks with the Russian and Greek diplomacies, whose tasks would be to make Karadzic's Serbs accept the Contact Group peace plan.

Dr. Enes Karic met with Iranian Culture Minister Mirsalim. They embraced a joint initiative to organize the days of Persian culture in Bosnia and the days of Bosnian culture in Iran. On that occasion the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture, and Sport promised assistance in didactical aids and means for the issue of textbooks.

Mayor [of Sarajevo] Tarik Kupusovic visited the administrative computer center in Tehran together with the director of Gras enterprise Ibrahim Jusufvranic.

Agreement Reached With Finland To Pay Debt Arrears

LD2508172494 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 25 Aug 94

[Text] After talks held between a delegation from the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Finnish authorities, the two sides agreed that Iran's arrears to that country will be paid in two years and in 16 installments. According to the agreement, obstacles in the way of utilizing a $50 million credit for joint projects, offered by Finland to the Islamic Republic of Iran, were removed.

Khamene'i Criticizes Media 'Sensation'

LD2608103794 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 26 Aug 94

[Excerpts] On the auspicious birthday of the last of the prophets, Muhammad, son of Abdallah, may God's peace and salutations be upon him and his scion, and on the birthday of Imam Ja'far Sadeq [the sixth Shi'a Imam], peace be upon him, the Islamic Republic officials and foreign guests of the international Islamic unity conference this morning met with the esteemed leader of the revolution His Eminence Ayatollah Ali Khamene'i in Huseyniyeh-e Imam Khomeyni.

During this meeting, the esteemed leader of the Islamic revolution made a detailed speech. [passage omitted] In part of his speech, the esteemed leader of the Islamic revolution, referring to the futility of the all-embracing efforts of Islam's enemies against the Islamic Republic of Iran, on the propaganda sensation of the United States and the Zionist regime, and their false allegations of attributing the Argentine bomb explosion to the Islamic Republic of Iran, said: World public opinion has realized that the Islamic Republic of Iran will not be harmed and undermined by the propaganda sensation waged by the mercenary media affiliated to Zionism and the foul-mouthed American statesmen. Thanks to the heavy volume of their poisonous propaganda, the Islamic Republic of Iran has become battle-hardened and invincible. His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, praised Islamic Iran's mighty and decisive presence on the international arena and against U.S. arrogant greed and said: The Islamic Republic of Iran's presence on the world level prevents the realization of their arrogant objectives. The fear by the world's powerful states vis-a-vis the Islamic Government of Iran, and their extensive propaganda endeavor against Iran are clear proof of Islamic Iran's ability and the high status it enjoys in world public opinion and particularly in the Islamic world. [passage omitted]

Velayati Urges UN Efforts To Solve Tajik Crisis

LD2608102494 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 26 Aug 94

[Excerpt] Iran again announced its readiness to cooperate with the United Nations to end the clashes in

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Tajikistan, to establish a cease-fire and lasting peace, and to begin reconstruction in that country. In a letter to the UN secretary-general, the foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran pointed out the current critical situation in Tajikistan and throughout the region and called for the United Nations to make all-encompassing and serious efforts to start the third round of negotiations in Islamabad, to adopt efficient methods to ensure progress in the negotiations, and to upgrade the seniority of the negotiating teams.

Mr. Velayati also pointed out his recent negotiations with officials from Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan regarding the Tajik crisis. He said that the regional countries also call for the continuation and intensification of the United Nations' efforts to prevent the crisis deepening and to begin national reconciliation. [passage omitted]

Larijani Views Outlook for ROK, DPRK

NC2608102494 Tehran HAMSHAHRI in Persian 18 Aug 94 p 15

[Commentary by Mohammad Javad Larijani, adviser to the president on diplomatic affairs: "South Korea and a Very Exciting Future" from the "Political Note" column]

[Text] 1. Washington statesmen have changed their tone from a direct military threat against North Korea to the point of undertaking to build modern nuclear reactors in that country! The Korean Peninsula is experiencing extremely important political developments following the death of Kim Il-song under very special circumstances! These circumstances may stem from voluntary steps by the main players but the death of Pyongyang's leader did not. Political scientists face an extremely interesting issue: the involvement of elements beyond the will of humans, leading to a complete about-face in the objectives and policies of the players concerned!

2. If the unity of the two Koreas from the U.S. viewpoint meant shifting South Korea into an organized northern system, today the scene has changed. Now the White House can prioritize its expectations concerning developments in the Korean peninsula: Changing the hostile nature of relations between Pyongyang and Washington and replacing these with friendly relations and trust; increasing economic-industrial assistance by Washington to North Korea to modernize the country along with gradual changes in the political-social structure; reaching a stage where North Korea will become a reliable economic and political ally for the United States in the region; and uniting the two Koreas by assuming that the south will be shifted into the north's system!

3. How can this policy succeed? There are two major reasons. The first is that America no longer considers democratic reform to be the instrument needed for talks aimed at gaining concessions and it has even concluded that having secular friends is enough and that democracy will not always work to America's benefit!

The second reason is the change in North Korea's leadership. The new leadership has long thought of opening the country's doors to the outside world and creating changes in the country's economic system. It has been granted this opportunity today. For the objectives of the new leadership, the political friction left over from the reactors issue should be considered an unexpected blessing because it is no longer necessary to pave new grounds for rearranging relations. It is only necessary to inject new material into the same "channel!" South Korea is right in regarding the current talks in Geneva with concern, because the situation is changing. The south's problem is: How much longer will it remain Washington's "favorite wife"?

4. I think the unity of the two Koreas enjoys such strong domestic support that it will become the most interesting incident to occur toward the end of this century! South Korea has reached such a stage of economic and industrial development that its friendship with America costs it more at home. North Korea offers much higher potential for a program of rapid modernization. And as for democracy, neither of the two has a considerable historic record or structure in it. It is not improbable that the political leaders in Seoul will decide to enter the game directly. The help that Pyongyang can receive directly from its compatriots in the south will be less costly, more rapid, and sweeter than the parcel sent from the other side of the Pacific Ocean!

Judiciary Chief on Plots Against Muslims

LD2508125394 Tehran IRNA in English 1117 GMT 25 Aug 94

[Text] Tehran August 25, IRNA—Judiciary Chief Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi said here Thursday that certain rulers of Islamic states, through their blind obedience to U.S. and Zionist regime have put their nations in deadly traps laid by the U.S. and Zionists.

He made the remark at the second day of the Seventh International Islamic Unity Conference and added that Muslim ulema have realized the scope of the danger and will take necessary measures to rescue Muslims from this trap.

Addressing hundreds of Islamic scholars from 31 countries attending the conference, held at Imam Khomeyni complex, the judiciary chief continued that the lacky rulers consider disloyalty to the West and the Zionist regime detrimental to their survival.

The West must realize that Muslims have been awakened and the contemporary Islamic ulema will confront the conspiracy, he told the guests.

The ayatollah further in his speech touched on protest of ulema in Iran, Egypt and several other Moslem countries against a number of un-Islamic articles in the resolution

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of the International Conference on Population and Development, held in Cairo.

U.S. Officials' 'Provocative' Remarks Noted

LD2508194494 Tehran IRNA in English 1905 GMT 25 Aug 94

[Text] Madrid, Aug. 25, IRNA—U.S. President alleged in Chicago on Wednesday that Iran supports terrorism and urged the European countries to try to make Iran change its conduct.

Addressing a conference at the Zionist B'nai B'rith in Chicago, Bill Clinton said the U.S. policy was clearly aimed at isolating and weakening Iran.

Before the U.S. President, foreign minister of the Zionist regime Shim'on Peres had made such an appeal to Germany and other European countries.

In recent weeks, especially in the wake of the bomb blast in a Jewish center in Buenos Aires, the U.S. and the Zionist regime officials have made provocative remarks against Iran and have tried to influence the European countries to put pressure on Iran.

The political observers say that after levelling accusation against Iran in connection with the bomb blasts and the insufficient evidence to support the charge, this is a new wave of propaganda to isolate Iran.

Argentine attorney general, Angel Aguero Iturbe, has said, "there is not sufficient evidence to press charges against the four Iranians."

Foreign diplomats in Buenos Aires described Iturbe's statement as a blatant defeat for the U.S. and Israel.

Clinton repeated the old claim that Iran was on top of the list of terrorist states. He added that the U.S. tried its best to subjugate Iran.

He appealed to the countries symphathetic to the U.S. to go on fighting Iran's poilcy.

An Arab diplomat in the United Nations said that the U.S. and Israeli statesmen spare no efforts to isolate Iran just because Iran did not accept the Middle East peace process.

He said that after the collapse of communism, the U.S. assumes that it is in the position of power and could not tolerate the independent stance of the Islamic states.

Antoni Martinez, 42, a Spanish journalist said here today that levelling accusations with no proof against a country and calling on others to condemn a certain country was an affront to other nations and it was beneath the dignity of any president to engage in such conduct.

He said that the European countries enjoy independence after the end of the communist threat and that is why they do not care for the U.S. recommendations.

Martinez said that the European countries are aware of the strategic position of Iran in the central Asian region and the Persian Gulf and interested in expansion of relations with Tehran.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani Discusses Situation

LD2508094794 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1727 GMT 23 Aug 94

[Studio interview with President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani by unidentified correspondent; date not given; from the "From Yesterday Until Tomorrow" program—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] In the Name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Greetings to the dear listeners and the audience of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran. We hope you have had a good day, and God willing, a better time awaits you now. On the occasion of Government Week, we have the opportunity to have an audience with His Excellency Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the esteemed president, in order to put a number of questions to him. We wish to draw your attention to this interview.

Your Excellency the president! We are very grateful that you have given us the opportunity for this audience. We express our congratulations to you and all the members of the serving government on the occasion of Government Week and wish success for all of you. Before anything else, I would like to ask you to have a few words with our audience, and then, God willing, we will put a number of questions to you.

[Rafsanjani] Very well. In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Obviously, during Government Week, in which normally there is a great deal of talk about plans and performances, the people expect to hear something from me too. We have designated this particular week because of the anniversary of the martyrdom of our dear martyrs, Raja'i and Bahonar, who died in the tragic bomb explosion in the building housing the prime minister's office [in 1981]. I would like to express my condolences to the people and the mourning families, in particular to our esteemed and wise leader [Khamene'i], who has had to endure the grief more than anyone else.

[Correspondent] Mr. President, as the experts judge, our revolution is a young one and perhaps there are not many such young revolutions around that have a government that moves forward with speed and with such a precise and clear plan. At present, we have entered our second economic, social, and cultural development plan, and naturally you and your colleagues have entered this new stage with carefully formulated plans. You have naturally selected a particular framework for your moves in this plan. Why have you selected this method, and for what reasons have you chosen this path?

[Rafsanjani] We have considered the situation of our country and revolution, and after comprehensive

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studies, we have chosen this path, which we thought would be in the country's interest. Perhaps it would be appropriate if I explain briefly the situation that we were facing.

After the war, and before any real peace came about—that is, when merely the flames of war were extinguished at the fronts—we reviewed the situation in the country and realized that we had to adopt a number of general decisions. After more studies, we found out that these could be implemented only if they were put within the framework of a plan. Thus, for the first time, we started thinking about plans. Of course, we had also considered plans in the past, but this time, we realized that we had to take plans seriously and try to get them ratified. In those days, our first problem was the lack of a plan. Every year, we used to submit a budget without presenting any plan to cover a period of a few years.

Of course, we faced a war and the early days of the revolution, and it was therefore natural that we could not present any plan for a period of a few years. When we started to compile a plan, we reviewed the conditions and realized that the country's problems were indeed numerous. However, with the revolutionary zeal and enthusiasm of our people and their spirit during the era of war and defense, no one paid much attention to these problems and everyone just thought about saving the country.

I have compiled a list of these problems in my mind, and I shall only enumerate them. The first problem was the extensive destruction caused by the war. Later on, during our careful investigation aimed at presenting our case to the United Nations, we learned that we had suffered $1 trillion in damage. This is indeed very serious for a country, especially a revolutionary country such as ours.

The other problem was the budget deficit. We realized that in the last budget we presented to the Majles in the year before the first plan [1987-88], we had a deficit of 51 percent—that is to say, more than half of the budget had to be borrowed from the Central Bank, which had to print more money and create extensive inflation.

Our third problem was the deprived areas. We learned that during this time period as well as during the reign of the past regime, injustice had been perpetrated upon a large portion of our country, which was left severely backward.

Our fourth problem was the backwardness of our infrastructure—that is to say, the infrastructure had either not been built at all during the reign of the Pahlavi, or whatever had been built was destroyed during the war. Our water, electricity, communications, transport, ports, mines, building and construction material, agriculture, industries, urban transport, and all other areas were in an anarchic state. The situation regarding our oil was so bad that we could only produce around 2 million barrels per day, and even that by incorrect methods. This was very dangerous. Also, our marine import facilities were damaged. Our stores were completely empty. The bazaars were empty.

You were definitely aware of the situation. In such a situation, the consumption needs of the country were mainly met with imported goods. There were less goods in the country. We were mainly importing goods. The prices were incorrect at that time too. We were offering some goods to people at the government rate, which was not enough, and its difference with the open market was sometimes up to 30 times less or more, which put great pressure on the standard of living. It was totally unhealthy.

The country's system, as a result of the conditions of war and revolution, was centralized. Most tasks were run by the state in order to protect people during the war. This was required under those living conditions. The people depended on the subsidies and all their life routines depended on the subsidies, which were paid by the Treasury. It was difficult to carry out great tasks under that system.

I have counted around 10 cases so far. The 11th case: There were many plans that were damaged and left unfinished. Unfinished plans are like a bane for the country. These expenses increase every year and money is spent on them without gaining anything from them. We spent money. We poured money into society, but it did not bear any fruit. The result was inflation, high prices, and major losses.

What was painful to us was the unjust situation of the matter. A number of opportunists were profitting from the black market and high prices. The war-hit and deprived regions and many others were losing every day. This unjust situation was really a cause of pain for us.

On the other hand, we had a situation of neither peace nor war and we could not make any decisions in order to change the situation. We did not know whether to strengthen our military forces, embark on construction, or return the people to the war-hit regions. This confusing situation was painful.

The state of the banks was very poor. The people were not depositing money in the banks; they were changing it into paper money or coins and similar things. The banks were empty-handed and unable to make loans. In such cases, the Central Bank should offer support. Our exports were below $1 billion and the imports—whatever we were importing was not sufficient, and we could not import much in that situation.

Unemployment was a serious problem. More than 16 percent of our labor force was unemployed. It was natural: the war had ended and a large number of youths who were not going to the front were added to the numbers of the unemployed.

Our other problem was population growth, which was astronomical. We had more than 3 percent—3 and

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one-half percent population growth. It was about to cause overpopulation in the country.

Our communications network was not working well. Our cities were mainly in a standstill mode during the war and looked dead, Tehran and other cities.

Transport vehicles and machinery were not available because they had been sent to the front. Production was very low. We were annually experiencing a significant percentage of negative growth; that is, each year our production was less than the previous year as a result of the situation that I have mentioned.

There was no electricity. The factories, those which wanted to operate, were forced to ration electricity. Electricity was rationed extensively. There were many other issues, which we need not be reminded about any more.

We were facing 25 cases of serious problems, each of which required a plan. We thought that we had to draw up a plan in order to remedy the situation and solve these problems. Such a plan had already been compiled by the previous government. However, we amended that plan to fit our particular circumstances. The plan was submitted to the Majles. The objectives of the plan were to eliminate the problems and pave the way toward a healthy economy, a healthy lifestyle, and the country's progress.

[Correspondent] Thank you, Mr. President, for explaining the atmosphere of that era, that is, the time when the First Five-Year Plan was being compiled. However, when we come to implement a plan, we should defend the implementation phase. Could you please tell us how you would defend the implementation process of the first plan?

[Rafsanjani] Well, the imam [Khomeyni] approved the plan's proposals, which had been ratified by the Majles, just as now, when the policies are approved by the present leader [Khamene'i]. The plan was then passed to us for implementation. We were both the compilers of the plan to some extent as well as the executors. I think the 25 cases that I mentioned have completely changed during the past four to five years. If you were to study any of the cases, you would realize that the circumstances have changed. Anyone who wishes can raise some points. The best defense of the plan is to say that we have well realized the objectives of the plan. In some instances our achievements overtook the plan proposals.

In some instances we have not reached the goals of the plan, and in some points we are in line with the plan objectives. Our major achievement at that juncture was our success in rectifying the post-war plight of the country. We fully paved the way for a healthy and positive transformation toward prosperity, development, and progress.

[Correspondent] Mr. President, may I put another question to your excellency? In view of the fact that we have completed the first plan; have come through eight years of the holy war [against Iraq]; and we can say that we have successfully and honorably come through the military obstacles created against us by global arrogance; and we are currently experiencing the economic bottlenecks—we cannot say that we have come through fully yet—in view of all these things, what is the most outstanding and historic feature of this particular juncture?

[Rafsanjani] If by the phrase this juncture, you mean today, the answer is different as compared to that for the era after the war. The juncture after the war was the situation I described, and it had to be remedied. At the present juncture, we have come through a very difficult stage. Currently we are on a relatively smooth path. The seedbed of the second plan is much softer than that of the first plan.

At the international level, in those days we were being watched to see how much time would pass before we caved in and surrendered under the burden of war and the destruction inflicted on the country. They used to say: Necessity will force them to abandon their aspirations and surrender. This did not happen, and now they can see that the Islamic Republic has come through the difficult post-war era, thanks to its determination and virtues. They saw we came through that difficult period, and now we have built a relatively acceptable infrastructure in every field. Now we can level the bumps and potholes. Now they can see that the road ahead is going to be smooth. They have abandoned their hopes. There are signs that confirm this. However, there will be new conspiracies against us. The objective of these conspiracies is to force us to abandon our independence in opinion or to make us stop saying no in reply to their illegitimate demands.

At the present, we are in the phase of continuing the reconstruction program. We are also in the phase of continuing our steadfastness against the historical pressure, which has targeted us since the revolution. Obviously the nature of this pressure has to alter following the failure of their tried methods. We should remain vigilant and stick to the aspirations of the revolution. We should also pay attention to the interests of society and the country's requirements.

[Correspondent] It can perhaps be said that the question that I am going to ask your excellency is a personal one, as it concerns you as a person. However, because you hold the highest executive post of the country and the revolution, the question cannot really be considered as personal. A famous thinker says that the heaviest hand is the hand of history, which weighs upon one's shoulders and displays its presence in time and space, making its weight felt particularly on the shoulders of great men. Does your excellency feel the weight of the hand of history upon your shoulders?

[Rafsanjani] This metaphor perhaps does not really apply to me, because I am not a great man like the thinker had in mind. However, during the early days of

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my task, I used to feel the weight much more than now. Perhaps what I have already said—and which you have heard—it should now be clear that we really did have some worries in the past. Nonetheless, that was merely a feeling of weights, and I was sure that the problems could be overcome. This was because I knew our people, and I had faith in the magnitude of the might the revolution's ideology and was fully aware of Iran's potential. However, I never considered the weight as unbearable, and I feel calm now in particular. I see that the country has passed through its most arduous stage with flying colours.

We have someone like the eminent leader of the revolution alongside us, and he makes the weight seem light for us. In addition, we have such good people, who broke the back of that strange and unique war, and single-handedly managed to register in history their victory against all the powers of the world. We even proved our case to the United Nations, and no one ever thought that one day the United Nations would vote in our favor.

With such capabilities, we must not let the problems weigh us down, and we must move forward with strength.

[Correspondent] Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani: When in your speeches you mention the esteemed leader Khamene'i, one feels a special pleasure in your words. How do you deal with problems and crises? To what extent do you rely on the esteemed leader, on negotiations with the honorable leader?

[Rafsanjani] To a great deal. This is because first we have to rely on Khamene'i according to both the law and religious law. In many general issues, it is his right to make the decision, and we have to ask his opinion. Previously we expected the Imam Khomeyni to do the same, and he did so. Whenever we had problems, we would go to the imam.

Second, spiritually speaking, there are certain decisions I have to make myself. But when I speak to Khamene'i, the decision-making process becomes easy for me. Perhaps he is the best adviser under the skies for me at the moment. With just a telephone call or a meeting, a complicated problem... [pauses] When we reach a coordinated view, we move forward with peace of mind.

[Correspondent] May I ask how your excellency pictures the final destination?

[Rafsanjani] I have the final destination outlined in my mind. In that juncture, we should have a country that ideologically is fully Islamic, the type of Islam that we ourselves understand, as we think that there are many things that need to be reformed in their Islamic dimension [bo'd-e eslami].

In the dimension of life, we envision a comfortable and a self-sufficient country, able to meet its main needs by itself; a country that can defend itself and a country that can be a model of healthy life in that it should neither be an aggressor nor a subject to the tyranny of others. A country that does not look at others with greed and maintains its links with the world, since independence does not mean isolation and lack of communication. We would, therefore, have exchanges with others. A country in which we have managed to preserve and enrich our resources for the future generations.

Our people should be literate, and education should be provided for everyone. The atmosphere, moreover, should be secure and free. Opinions should be expressed in a healthy and free manner, and no one should be afraid to express his opinions. These opinions, moreover, should be listened to.

This is the kind of atmosphere I envision, and I believe if we manage to create such a society, then we will have attained the goals of our revolutions. Otherwise, we would still be only halfway through our path.

[Correspondent] Mr. President! As you said, and as the available signs and evidences show, the major part of war ruins have been reconstructed over five years, our sick economy has started its recovery, and many other great tasks in the areas of cultural and economic development have been accomplished. However, it seems that it was possible that by a number of superficial and popular measures, one could boost the public image of the work that needed to be done. Your plans were all long term, and the result of some of the projects will only appear after many years. Only then will it become clear how fundamental and infrastructural these projects have been. It seems that your excellency decided to choose a path that showed you had no interest in becoming a popular pseudo hero. Was this a conscious choice, and if you could do everything again, would you choose and defend this course again?

[Rafsanjani] The choice was certainly a conscious one, and I considered anything else as a betrayal of the people. As you also mentioned, it was quite possible to refrain from implementation of a number of these large-scale projects and instead set out to provide the people with their everyday consumer goods at the foreign currency rate of 7 Toman [70 rials to $1, before the revolution]. But I could see that a day would come when one would neither be able to implement projects nor preserve the status quo [of giving people consumer goods inexpensively]. This was very clear for me, as it would have been for any aware person.

Of course, as we have had to, we have not totally refrained from adopting popular measures. For instance, we have maintained the ration coupon system and the subsidies we pay for fuel. We are still giving oil and diesel fuel to the people for free, or even more than free [as heard], since we are the party who pays the transport charges. We used to provide electricity for free too, but this year we have slightly modified the system. We are giving natural gas to the people for absolutely freely, and the same applies to sugar. These have been due to the needs of the country, and we really could not exert any

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more pressure on our people, who have to live and work after all, and we do understand their problems.

However, the reason for saying all of this is to make it clear that in our second development plan, I have continued the same course as in the first development plan. If I had wanted to retreat from my earlier thinking, the time for it would surely have been now. Furthermore, during my presidential election campaign, I reasoned very much on the basis of the same course I had taken previously. If this choice had not been conscious, I would certainly have said new things after the passage of four years, since the start of my second term in office. I chose my path consciously and with faith, and still no one has come forward to reason that this process—or rather this policy, as mistakes may often occur in a process—has been a serious mistake.

[Correspondent] Mr. President, it is a fact that our society and people consider your excellency a major thinker in the field of social justice—and I am not saying that just to pay a compliment—as in something between 20 to 30 of your Friday prayer sermons you have talked about social justice and how it can be materialized. Now in view of the viewpoint that your excellency possesses in this regard, when you say for instance that such and such item has been given to people for free, has this not been in line with the pursuit of social justice and in helping the low-income and vulnerable strata who perhaps still do not enjoy desirable conditions?

[Rafsanjani] Of course when we say free of charge, we mean something different to the everyday practice of someone giving someone else an item for free. These things belong to the people themselves. Public funds do not belong to me, or to anybody else for that matter. They belong to the people as a whole. They also belong to the future generations, and we are at the moment using resources that really belong to them. When we extract a great deal of oil and burn it off for a low price, we are in fact doing injustice to future generations.

We have, in other words, told the people to come and take what is rightfully theirs without paying anything for it. The established practice is that when you take something from the public funds, you should put something back into it, unless of course we are dealing with people who have no means or are infirm or needy, and the needs of these groups are of course managed and protected by public funds.

Throughout different eras I have thought—and still do—that there are certain injustices prevalent almost in all areas of our lives. But we cannot perform miracles and get rid of them quickly. I have often cited examples of this. For instance, at present we see how much cheap or almost free heating fuel a well-off urban family uses, and then realize that a rural family uses something around one-hundredth of that amount. But, their real shares of the oil resources are in fact the same. This is clearly not justice. But reforming this situation, which has its roots in the past century and has lingered on to the present, will certainly take time, and one cannot change it overnight. We are, however, trying to address these injustices in a gradual manner, and we are aware that we still have to go a few years before these are remedied.

The real justice is that everyone should earn as much as they work, and should take as much as they give. There are of course some people who are unable to work, and justice would dictate that their needs should be provided for by public funds. It is injustice that one should earn more than others for less work. This trend is currently taking place in our country in different forms. On the one hand, some geographical locations and regions in the country earn more than others. This has of course been improved during the last five years, and the situation used to be worse in the past. On the other hand, the same is happening from one individual to another.

I believe that one of my main goals, ever since I started my struggles, has been to eradicate such inequalities. We have taken certain steps, but some time is needed before we achieve what we want.

[Correspondent] Your excellency referred to social justice. Could your excellency expound on the meaning of social justice? You said that everyone should benefit according to their effort. This might be sufficient. If not, could you please explain what is the ideal social justice that you are pursuing?

[Rafsanjani] This has an extensive meaning and is a scientific and ethical debate. It will not fit into an interview. I spoke about one aspect of it; financial and economic matters. From another point of view, there is the human potential that must have room to develop. There is the availability of public benefits. These must be available for everyone. Then there is social standing or human dignity. Humans are not limited to their need of food, clothes, and housing. The issue of human dignity must also have its place, as well as many other things. There must be justice in the field of appointments and responsibilities. Unsuitable people should not be placed in unsuitable positions. This makes an extensive social world, one small aspect of which we looked at.

[Correspondent] Then allow me to ask a question from an economic point of view. What is the most distinct element in the Second Development Plan that could bring about relative social justice, from the economic point of view?

[Rafsanjani] In this dimension, one thing: there is going to be greater attention to the deprived areas whose rights have not been recognized. There is the continuation of support for the war-damaged areas and the war-stricken people. Much has been spent on them in this period. Classes that have been underdeveloped for whatever reason and are not able to take their suitable place among humanity must be looked after—be it from an educational point of view or otherwise. There is the provision of health services. Serious emphasis on social justice should guarantee the minimum of human needs

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for the underdeveloped, the underprivileged, and the like so that they would be sure of their future. There is also the prevention of huge profits that are made without justice. Of course there is nothing wrong with those who make a profit through their work. They also help the country. But those who wrongly use social benefits must be corrected. We have foreseen particular highlights for each of the above in the plan— be it in distribution, production, or support.

[Correspondent] Mr. President: In today's world, the debate on the cultural war between the East and the West has surfaced more than ever. We are even witnessing factionalism and splits in the Western world itself. In the cultural debate and so forth, France basically considers itself. Opposition to the cultural onslaught has even surfaced in Europe, Western Europe, and America. The esteemed leader Khamene'i, especially last year, has spoken on many occasions about the defense of cultural sanctities, spirituality, and national sanctities [qedasat]. Please tell us how we can defend our position. How can we defend the principles of our ideas, which were the bases of the formation of the revolution, and match them logically with today's world so that our cultural sanctity is not disturbed?

[Rafsanjani] The path we have been taking has not been an incorrect one for the defense of our aspirations and safeguarding Islamic culture. I personally believe that, on the whole, we have had a cultural growth from the start of the revolution to the present day. Our people became interested in Islam during the exiting days of the revolution. Now after 16 years, after seeing the ups and downs, the vast majority of our society is still extremely interested in the principles of the revolution. We have seen many examples of this when we see the required support from the people. They may have something to say in certain circumstances. I believe our previous path should not be condemned. We do not need to alter our views radically.

The more difficult part is matching this with the ruling standards in the world and the expectations that others have from us. Naturally, the world and world powers have to this day organized themselves in such a way so as to live without faith, without divine teachings. Well, a number of divine teachings are in their lives inherently. However, they did not want to accept religion in the caravan of human progress. Currently they have certain clashes with us. We have clashes, they exert pressure on us, they engage in negative propaganda against us, and you can see their effects. As to how we can compromise with the world, this is a problem for the revolution in future years.

[Correspondent] In future years?

[Rafsanjani] Yes. In other words, we will have this problem in any case. As you have said, there are cultural contradictions in their own bases in Asia and Europe. This cultural contradiction is more severe when it comes to us.

[Correspondent] We believe that our revolution has been a cultural revolution, one which overturned established values. Let us not say overturned and say replaced values. The most important cultural achievement of the revolution has been the new outlook toward Islam. What can we do to maintain this outlook, considering the fact that we are dealing with human beings who are influenced by the environment, as all human beings are? Nowadays the satellite beams the environment into the family, and human beings are influenced by the environment. How should we deal with the satellite? Has our dealing with the satellite been correct for maintaining the achievements of the revolution? What is your advice on this? What should be done?

[Rafsanjani] The main task regarding these cultural issues is, from my point of view, cultural work itself. Human beings should be trained, taught, and their questions should be answered. We have done a lot in this context. We spend a lot of money on this. Just look at the large number of clerics in the country, and look at the Friday prayer podiums and mosques. The Voice and Vision Organization is responsible for a major part of our cultural activities. The newspapers and the media.... [pauses] the expansion of our press.... [pauses] Before the First Five-Year Plan, circulation of the press was around 170 million. Today the figure is 500 million. There are many more magazines and newspapers. They are all training the people. The universities, colleges, schools, cinemas, theaters all have cultural outlooks. We are expanding and strengthening them. We are providing mobile libraries for rural areas, we are enlarging the parks. These are the main tasks.

However, physical [previous word in English] work is required in any society. In society, one cannot think everyone's cultural problems will be solved through reasoning. One should also take care in certain circumstances; certain things should not reach the people; certain things should be forced on the people. However, these aspects of the work do not carry much weight in the general policies of Islam. Training is the major aspect of Islamic policy, and suppression is the minor aspect, when one is forced to do so.

[Correspondent] Mr. President, education must start with the most receptive, i.e., the younger generation. What have we done for the younger generation, who are not only the most important elements of production, but the very production itself, as well as the builders and heirs to the revolution? As not to extend the interview and take too much time, could your excellency also say what you have done for women, who are the educators of the young and the youth?

[Rafsanjani] We have done a lot. Of course, because there are shortcomings, people usually speak of the shortcomings when explaining things. A lot has been done during the revolution. I will start with the schools. We have covered something like 97 percent, and now almost all youngsters and youth are coming to school.

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We have also brought in the girls, the ladies that you refer to. When we started, many of the ladies would not come to school, especially for secondary education and above. Today we have covered nearly all the people. The schools themselves are very different from those in prerevolutionary times. The teaching classes are among the best. We have trained the teachers who are young, pious, Hezbollahi, caring, knowledgeable, and who look after the children at school. There are enough of them, both men and women. We have expanded the universities. We have increased the number of university students from about 200,000 to 1.1 million, and are expanding.

On the cultural issues that I referred to: previously no one listened to sermons except those in the mosques. Today, if the gentlemen say something reasonable in Friday prayers and other tribunes, you broadcast it on radio and television to all the people. We are careful everywhere and look after everything. Look at the radio and television programs for a week and note the amount of educational work done for the people. A lot has been done. And these are the correct things. During the war too, we educated our children at the war fronts. The children grew a lot during the war: the [paramilitary] Basiji boys at the Basij centers, which have been increasing recently. Everyone is working. A lot has been done. It is for no reason that society has remained revolutionary and steadfast. Of course, this will never end. Spiritual progress and perfection will continue until God is reached. We should not say we have had enough. We must continue; give it depth and dimension. We have to understand the new conditions, choose the suitable tools, and continue.

[Correspondent] Mr. President, one of your catch phrases is national strength [eqtedar-e melli] and national enhancement [e'tela-ye melli], to which you have referred many times. I go back again to the issue of the young. What role do you delineate for the young generation for bringing about that national strength and safeguarding the national enhancement? If we look at it from this point of view, is what has been done sufficient?

[Rafsanjani] One can never say it is sufficient. That is, we can always do more.

[Correspondent] Do excuse me; let me point out something. If we consider the average age for our combatants in the war—see what their average age was—did they safeguard the national strength? That is why I asked the last question.

[Rafsanjani] The young and the children are our country's main assets, and we do not need to do more than what is being done. Let us strengthen our schools, which we have expanded so much. Let us strengthen the schools' extracurricular program, have a richer voice and vision than the one we have. Deepen all newspapers; recreation; stories; films and artistic works. It is not necessary for us to constantly, for instance, find a new task. There is plenty that we are doing. Let us deepen all that and deal with them. Any one who comes up with an initiative, let him carry on. The efforts being made in the state at the moment to safeguard the young generation are not inconsiderable. But one still is concerned because of the negative pressure on our children, to look after them. If our children study well, become truly literate; and if we maintain the ethical standards in them, we shall have our national strength with them, we shall have our enhancement with them. The paths are clear-cut. Right now we have no undefined paths.

[Correspondent] Many thanks. Bearing in mind that we do not want to go from economic questions to cultural ones and return to them again...

[Rafsanjani, interrupting] If you wish to return to the topic and if something comes to your mind, do ask.

[Correspondent] But the way you look, sir, we cannot tell whether answering questions has made you tired or not.

[Rafsanjani] I am not tired yet. It has warmed up; but do continue.

[Correspondent] We have the present camps in the world. Since the revolution, we also have the new presence of Islam, with its new interpretation and exposition. It is a power capable of destroying the firmest, monopolized international agreements and of unbalancing their calculations. Considering that we believe in this power, is it possible to foresee a practical and administrative axis? If we have this practical and administrative method, would it be possible to ask what is the exact global position of the Islamic Republic? Is there a logical balance between our economy, culture, and politics? Is the attraction of the Islamic revolution on the decline or rise? And, Mr. President, will our system continue to get its power from revolution?

[Rafsanjani] These are three or four important questions, and there is much to say. Regarding our proper position, we started something important by introducing religion and Islam as the engine of man's social advance. This was not, of course, our initiative. The prophets and the wise have done this throughout history. Rather, this is a repeat of the important events of past histories. With our revolution, we started a movement contrary to the direction of the two camps of Marxism and capitalism. It was new for today's world, although it has always had a historic precedence.

Today there is a form of historic movement in Iran. Its application and advance is a different debate. We have many listeners across the world. Our Islamic revolution is introduced to the world. Of course, very powerful waves of opposition interrupt our statements on the way and do not allow their presentation as they are. Nevertheless, they are recognized. Many people—on an individual basis or in movements—are effected by what we say. Many are also standing against us.

Governments really do not like this movement because, as I said, they have organized their life without religion.

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They see religion as a private affair, a relation between the individual and God and without effect on social relations. Therefore, our position is presently sensitive. Our effectiveness and success in carrying out these ideas will be clear in the future. There are many problems, but also positive aspects.

There are difficulties regarding a balance between issues of life and economic issues. The economy of the world, of all countries, of modern industrial life and other sectors are all connected. They have the material power, and they are unhappy about our cultural and ideological move. Naturally, they exert pressure on those sectors. We cannot say, however, that they are harmonized. We have the objective of the country's reconstruction and social welfare, which sometimes contradicts the demand for humanity we have beyond our borders. Of course, we do not interfere and only present ourselves. They would not even be happy to see us being presented to the world as an ideal society among us.

There are, therefore, contradictions that make our work hard, but the difficulties are no more than before. It has been shown that it is possible to resolve these difficulties. Of course, wise policymaking is important here. It is not possible to say that all the human conscience and all the powers are dead and that we should be hopeless in the world. No, it is not like that. There are many fair people in the world. There are many voices of justice across the world. There are many people who want the truth, or at least its debate. There are many listening ears. Even in the worst conditions, at the time of the defense, we realized the possibility of attracting, in this very world, the means of survival and progress. I think it is difficult but possible.

[Correspondent] Every country can and has the right to express an opinion and think of itself as the center of the world. Of course, this is interpreted as idealism, exaggeration, and possibly a cause for pause and reflection. However, considering the position of our country, where we are evidently standing at the world's cultural crossroad and next to the world's greatest geographic crossing, what is our situation? In your opinion, can we really say that, although we are not the center of the world, we do have a distinguished position?

[Rafsanjani] These definitions—such as the center of the world and the heart of the world—used to refer to Iran are an exaggeration. However, we do have an important position for three reasons. From a geographic point of view, Iran is really in a sensitive position. Look at the areas around us, particularly to the south and the north, which contain the great reserves of energy. For regional air transport, we have the most suitable space. Our land is the best for land transportation, railway, and international highways. It is the most important and sensitive area for the oil and gas pipelines running from the north to the south and from Asia to Europe. If they want to chose a suitable position, it is Iran.

As for a definition of the heart, one of our pilots came to see me during the war with a world map showing Iran as the heart of the world. Well, this is a mental education. I do not want to look at it this way. From a geographic point of view, honestly, it is one of the most sensitive in the world. From the spiritual point of view—introducing the effects of religion on life, i.e. the cultural revolution and acknowledging Islam and religion as the foundation for the progress of humanity—these are important debates for the world. The debates have a central and sensitive position.

This was the second point, and the third is Iran's own resources. There are huge reserves of gas, oil, and other minerals, as well as the geographic situation. Also, there is the people's intelligence, a people with great intelligence. It is a place on which the world must rely. If we put these three elements together, the geographic situation, the natural resources, and the human and ideological strengths, then the world would have to accept that—without being pretentious—Iran must be counted as a center seriously effecting human history.

[Correspondent] Mr. President, following from what you have said, we have some serious enemies. We have some bullying enemies. Let us return to the discussion on national strength and pride. Considering the fact that we have these enemies and that we are under these strategic conditions, both geographically and politically and, above all, given the revolution itself, how safe do you feel in the world? What can be done to guarantee security on the world level, which requires strengthening national development and advancement? What is your view?

[Rafsanjani] Naturally, we cannot be at ease like other ordinary countries. In other words, well, we are not the same if such a feeling of security should creep its way into Iran, among Iranian officials, a feeling that exists in some Latin American and African countries, a feeling that we are going to be left alone. We are definitely under attack; both our culture and resources are under attack. This is the case.

However, as to whether I am worried about the future of the revolution, I really am not concerned. We have already gone through the worst. You remember the war. We had the uprising by the insurgents. A lot of the government's enemies were armed. An unprecedented war was imposed upon us. Nearly all of the world's big powers were backing our enemy. In the first days of the war, they managed to capture parts of five of our provinces. It was a serious war. We saved ourselves at that time. We were victorious. There has been enough propaganda against us to reduce the morale of our people and destroy the Iranian character, but we have survived the last 16 years. This shows we can deal with difficulties. We have nothing to worry about if we move forward with the same spirit. However, I believe it would be dangerous if one day someone starts feeling that life is completely normal or that we should lower our guard.

Our guiding light has been the revolution. We are what we are because of our revolutionary thoughts. If we lose this, we will become something else; we will become an ordinary country.

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[Correspondent] Mr. President, you spoke about going through the past 16 years with strength. At the start of the discussion, I said that we had put the military threat behind us and that we were putting the economic threat behind us. However, the most important issue for any revolution is culture, surviving the cultural threat. We have heard your views on this matter. Now, in order to put this cultural threat behind us, naturally, the media—the press, the radio, and the television—have to carry out their historical duty. How much time do you have to watch television programs and listen to the radio? And what advice do you have for them?

[Rafsanjani] I sometimes listen to radio and watch television, to those programs that are important. Anyway, I will get information. I look briefly at almost all the newspapers every day. I am familiar with the media. I am satisfied with our media to a certain degree. They have really tried hard, especially Voice and Vision. During all of the post revolution period, the period after the war, and even today during the period of construction, the Voice and Vision has really been a supporter of the regime and has worked very well. Although Voice and Vision has some critics, I am very satisfied with their efforts.

My general advice is that they should always understand the aim of the onslaught of the enemy. They should be careful not to be put unwittingly in a path where the enemy takes advantage of them. If, for example, they feel that the enemy wants to demoralize our people by saying, among other things: You have lost out with your revolution. Your country became weak. Your economy is weak. You became illiterate. The media should not enlarge such small points. Of course, they might be doing it with good intentions since they want to resolve the problems. So the enemy takes advantage. The enemy attributes the issue again in a way to us, as our confession, and says it to our children and deceives our children. These are the strong points of this country that really.... [pauses] We are in a state of war. However, this onslaught exists in our country in various dimensions against us, while there is no official war. In a state of a war, no one wants to give to its enemy the possibilities for weakening morale. Our forces too are vigilant and cannot fail to understand these things. They should be alert and understand the issues. They should foil those points that are the focus of attention of our propaganda enemies.

Of course, the other important awareness that they should have is that they should pay attention. They are the media, and they should inform the people. They should definitely draw the attention of officials to the weaknesses in such a way that the enemy does not benefit from it. They should discuss it and inform the society. These are main expectations from the media.

[Correspondent] Do you follow a special program on radio and television?

[Rafsanjani] I mainly watch the news. I sometimes watch some of the interesting programs on any of the three channels in the evenings before going to bed. Sometimes when I am alone, studying in my office, I switch either the television or the radio on and generally listen. On my way to and from home, I generally listen to the radio. I have to look at the opportunities available; I cannot plan my viewing or listening.

[Correspondent] Thank you very much. Let us return to economic issues. Considering the independence of the countries on either side of the Caspian Sea and Central Asia, we can say we are present in Central Asia to the Caucasus and beyond. Of course, I am not talking about a physical presence. These conditions have created a relative economic advantage for us. How can we utilize this? In addition, you said that wars had different forms. We are currently going through war. The West may start an economic war against us, as they always do. For example, the Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, GATT, there may be some problems or some advantages if we join. If we do not join, it may have repercussions. What is your general view on this issue? Do you have a particular view on GATT membership?

[Rafsanjani] This is an important political issue and an important issue for wise government. Look, this is an ideal opportunity. Just imagine the day when all or the major portion of energy resources passes through Iran; for example, the resources in the south, in the Persian Gulf, gas or the northern resources being piped to Europe and Asia. The best route for this is right here. Imagine the security that this would create for the country because all the world would want this place to be secure. What an economic opportunity this would be. We would charge them for every meter that passes through our territory. What political muscle we would have in the world!

We could very easily change our neighbors' minds and prevent them using our territory if we follow the methods chosen by certain people. They would be prepared to pay more and use alternative routes. The right kind of thinking is that we show the world that we are rational, reliable, and trustworthy, because the world has to be able to rely on its energy sources and cannot hope to secure this energy from an unstable source. We must, therefore, present a suitable image of the country and show the world its capabilities and its ability to run thousands of factories, to warm or cool the countries, to put the wheels of the world's economy into motion. We can attain and preserve this highly advantageous position if our mass media, writers, and literary circles, and finally our managers, possess this kind of alertness.

Therefore, we have to comply with certain conventions in international communications. It is in this way that we can have such an advantageous position that the Almighty has bestowed upon us. We should try not to lose it.

At present, with the conditions that we enjoy, countries such as Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan, and others are all negotiating with us over the passage of their

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pipelines. Qatar is also doing the same, and major international companies are also negotiating with us to have the right to use this route. Moreover, the construction of these pipelines in Iran will generate a great deal of income for us and will create a lot of jobs. Our own contractors can do the projects, since they can complete the work at a much lower cost.

Moreover, there is our air space. We can have about 1,000 aircraft passing through our air space every day. If each aircraft gives us, say, $2,000 for its right to use our air space, then you can see what a hefty income this will generate, or if we have large modern international airports where aircraft can land and be given fuel and other services. These will yield a large income and will bring the country economic and political status, which we can use for attaining our cultural goals.

Therefore, the issue here is the right kind of wise management policy, which entails an investigation into what interests outweigh others and what constitutes the greater or the lesser consideration. These have to be distinguished from one another. I expect this alertness from our media and our managers.

The issue of GATT, on the other hand, is a particularly complicated one. At present, we have assigned a committee to study the matter. A powerful group is now engaged in evaluating the pros and cons of this process. They will bring their findings to the government, and we will join if we see that membership will benefit us in general. If we see that the disadvantages outweigh the advantages, then we will naturally refrain from membership. Our position is not clear yet, however.

[Correspondent] But if we do not join, will certain restrictions be imposed on us?

[Rafsanjani] These are exactly the things that are being studied. It is possible that we and our goods may be deprived access to some international markets, or it may be the case that we will not be able to import some goods that we require. These are all possible. Another possibility is that some domestic goods may come under pressure. Therefore, all different aspects must be taken into consideration. At present, however, no official circle has made any final judgment on this issue.

[Correspondent] You noted that in that vast expanse [gostare-ye vasi'] that management and policies [tadabir] must play their principal roles. One of the signs of good management is putting the private sector to work. That is, let it participate if it can activate the private sector in that vast expanse. Give it certain guarantees, and give it a sort of trust so that it believes it can become active in that space, in that arena, which especially brings a lot of reconstruction with it.

Did we succeed in the first plan to bring in the private sector? And how do you assess this in the second plan?

[Rafsanjani] We were most successful in the first plan. Of course, some raise mostly the negative points. We had much success. We activated the private sector, about which I will give some examples. Some believe this issue to be whether we have sold such and such factory to the private sector or not. That is not the issue.

The people were encouraged. They came into the arena and invested. Now, in any city you visit, you will see an industrial park has been built. When you visit those industrial parks, you see that tens, sometimes hundreds, of factories have risen up. Some have become operational; some are still being worked on. We are the ones who cannot give a lot of support so that the people's investment comes to fruition. That is because they want machinery; they need foreign currency. They wanted building materials that were not available in the past. Of course, one of our important moves was to make building materials available domestically, as well as in plentiful supply. There are no building material problems anymore. Or they want money from the banks. After all, the private sector, those who want to work, the engineers, the talented ones, typically do not have much wealth. If they have any, it is not cash. So they can come and immediately turn it into a factory, or workshop, or farm. The banks must give them money. Our banks do not have that much capacity at the moment to give money to all, since that will increase the money in circulation. That is particularly so if we want to obtain money from the Central Bank.

If we manage to supply those requirements of the private sector, there is now no shortage of capital for work. If just those factories that are under construction come to fruition, you will see that it will suddenly boost gross domestic product by a long stride. I consider those to be the effects of the first plan. Of course, we sold many factories; however, in the first plan we mostly had to reform the structure of the factories so that the private sector can make use of them.

During the war, our factories mainly began losing money, those that we took over from the taqutis [idolaters]. There were thousands of factories that we concentrated in the foundations, or that are in government hands. Those factories lost their management during a crisis, as well as began losing money, because of the war conditions and special conditions that existed. They were not sought. During the first plan, we made all of them profitable. At the moment, virtually all our factories have become profitable and are ready to be sold off. We thought that workers and the self-sacrificers should partake in that bounty. Of course, those servants of God do not have such wealth as is to come. The private sector does not mean that it will bring wealth with it; however, their power, their capability, and their support is there. And it is their right.

In my opinion, the course of privatization in the second development plan is smoother, and it will be implemented more quickly.

[Correspondent] Mr. President, the Chinese people are in the vanguard of the economic adjustment policy. If

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they had not been successful, they would not have been able to feed their 1.2 billion people. Their expertise in creating economic change is excellent. They started their work in the second half of the 70's. The outcome became apparent in the second half of the 80's. In the past few years, their economy has shown the highest rates of growth and the highest absolute rate of growth in the world. The Chinese started their reforms gradually, cautiously, and with deliberation. When there was talk about an open economic climate, they—even their media—would correct it to: Window Toward an Open Climate.

One of the pioneers of Chinese reforms has said: The economy is like a bird. If you hold it too tight, it withers away. It might die. If your hands are loose, it will fly away. You have to compromise. You have to treat the bird delicately. Could your excellency say if you have a similar view or some other vision? Should one negotiate with the economic situation?

[Rafsanjani] The view is the same, in principle, but we have major differences with China. There are a few points to be made here. When the Chinese president was here, we had a long debate in a private meeting over dinner. The Chinese must be compared to the Russians. The debate over Gorbachev was going on at that time, and I had just returned from the Soviet Union. After debates with Gorbachev, I was familiar with his ideas. The Chinese president argued against the Soviets and used this example. His criticism of Gorbachev was for opening up his country too quickly and losing the reins. This came true. It was thought that China would follow the Soviet Union. The Chinese said: We will not do so. We debated this here, and the Chinese position was much more logical than the Soviet's. Now the Soviets are facing all these problems, and the Chinese have maintained their domestic power and strength. It was an absolutely logical policy.

It is difficult, however, to compare us to the Chinese because China is a communist country. Everything is open here. For example, agriculture, commerce, housing construction, and industry are controlled by the people. In China, however, all these belong to the state. China has to continue opening up for another 10 years before it reaches our standards. We were never communist. Our economy was never Marxist.

It is not correct to compare them to us. However, the Chinese opened up so much in some areas that we were critical. For instance, this was true in cultural affairs. When I was in China, I told all their leaders: What you have left open will create problems for your country. They accepted this and readjusted somewhat.

There is also another issue in China that is not possible to compare. In China, despite its progress and productivity, consumption is very different than it is Iran. A four-member family lives in a 20-meter house. I specially went to their villages to see. They eat two meals a day. Their clothes are not even like ours, neither men's nor women's. They never use the amount that we use. They live very economically and are thus able to manage their population. If we want to live like them and tell people to live like them for a month, people would not tolerate it. The amount of calories used here is not the same as there.

The basics of the idea that you pointed out are totally correct, however. We are cautious. For one thing, the Constitution does not allow us to be too open. According to the Constitution, many things belong to the state. It cannot be opened or transferred to the foreign or domestic sectors. Foreign investment is somewhat limited in Iran. Of course, the Chinese have opened up, and large parts of their country are managed by foreign investment. In this sector, we did not open up as much as they did. We continue to have subsidies, coupons. There are none in China. Comparison is not correct, but the basic idea that adjustment should be implemented cautiously is what we are doing ourselves. We did not open up too much.

[Correspondent] Mr. President, if you permit me, I have one or two more questions left.

[Rafsanjani] Please go on, ask your questions.

[Correspondent] We have taken a lot of your time, we thank you for your kindness and the time you have given us. Recently the world has started a sensational propaganda campaign against us. I am referring to the explosion at the Zionists' gathering place in Argentina. They are trying very hard to implicate us. There are a lot of contradictions in their words. In this context, we witnessed the explosion at the pure shrine of His Holiness Imam Reza, peace be upon him, the eighth imam. Do you see any connections between these moves?

[Rafsanjani] I do not know if there are any connections between these two moves. However, I am suspicious. I doubt they are acting according to facts or even their own beliefs. They have based their allegations on the testimony of a fugitive, a cheat who is wanted in Iran. The most that can be said is this: He has given them this testimony. However, they could have easily found out that these utterances are not true. They followed a certain path... [pauses] They are looking for opportunities to put us under pressure. Since they see that we have an anti-Zionist stance and since we support the Palestinians, and since that incident was against the Zionists, they have created a natural connection between these trends in their minds. They are moving subjectively, that is, if we do not say their move is fundamentally hostile.

However, there are many reasons and there is evidence that it really is a conspiracy. They have a set scenario [previous word in English] to put pressure on the Iranian revolution.

[Correspondent] Thank you very much for giving us your time, Mr. President. We hope for continuing successes for your very good self and all the government

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members. In conclusion, if you have anything specific to say to our dear people, please do so. Once again, thank you very much.

[Rafsanjani] I have to thank our people. They have helped us through all the stages. They have been the principle supporters of the government and the system. Of course, the people were lovers and followers of the imam. He brought them on the scene. I was one of the people, and the imam brought me onto the scene. I especially have to thank the dear families of the martyrs, those missing in action, the heroes, and the self-sacrificing devotees and combatants who are the fundamental investment of the revolution both today and tomorrow. I have this to say to them: This great revolution that we undertook and this long path that we have chosen will definitely have difficulties and sweetness. We must continue along our path with the spirit we had during the revolution and for its defense. Through unity, friendship, comradery, coordination, and compassion we can take our society to its deserved position.

[Correspondent] Mr. President, you spoke of unity, and I had ended the discussion. Could you please add this point: If the secret of our survival is in this unity and solidarity, what factors will lead to the strengthening of our national unity?

[Rafsanjani] Selfishness has always led to disunity. And a common spirit and selflessness always lead to unity. Everything is explained right here. If we can be honest with ourselves and look more upon society and others than ourselves.... [pauses] Other faiths are exactly the same. Different trends in the country....[pauses] In any case, there are various lines of thought in the nation. If one was selfish, then a fight would ensue. There are religious minorities; our Sunni brothers are in this country. We should all show kindness to others at the same time as being interested in ourselves. We should share the bad times and the good times. We should share both difficulties and blessings. If this spirit remains in the people, unity will continue. If this spirit disappeared, it would not matter how many times you shouted unity. Everything would fall apart.

[Correspondent] Thank you very much Mr. President.

Power of Media Noted, IRNA Criticized

NC2508200794 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL (WEEKLY EDITION) in English 18 Aug 94 p 2

[Editorial: "Communications: The Most Potent Weapon"]

[Text] In today's high-tech world, information is power. The defense of the ideals and policies of a country, depends upon the power of its media. In fact the more alert and energetic the media, better are the prospects to promote a nation's image, both at home and abroad.

The press, radio, TV, and wire services, are the most potent weapons in a country's cultural arsenal to check the inroads of modern-day predators, by disseminating facts and realities.

Accurate and apt reporting for a country such as Iran, not only makes the people less dependent on the propaganda dished out by global arrogance, but also boosts our standing among world public opinion.

In Iran, as in several other countries, the print media depends on the wire services for the bulk of its news. It is here that the role of the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) comes to prominence for the inflow as well as outflow of news and views.

IRNA, no doubt, has come a long way from the war years (1980-88), when it struggled against heavy odds to keep the world and Iran's supporters abroad, abreast with the latest developments in the march of a revolutionary nation towards the goals set by its great leader, the late Imam Khomeyni.

It was a commendable job, and as the 1991 war between Iraq and the U.S.-led alliance was to prove, IRNA became virtually the single source of first hand information for other wire services of the world, by its excellent coverage of even the faintest sound coming from the other side of the border.

At the same time, it continued to reflect the opinions of our experts and respected scribes in the print media—both the pros and cons—on topics ranging from war in our immediate neighborhood to foreign loans, trade, industry, environment and culture.

But for any discernible observer, except for the occasional streak of excellent journalism, the quality of reporting by IRNA's International (English) Desk, sorry to say, has been sluggish, substandard and at times paradoxical, much to the delight of its detractors.

News handling is a sensitive job. With due respect to our colleagues at IRNA, a national news agency cannot afford to be lackadaisical in its approach especially at this sensitive juncture when we are in the middle of a coordinated cultural offensive.

What a reputed news agency requires is commitment plus professionalism, and the lack of either would only make the situation more chaotic.

For instance, one comes across misspellings, and that too in sensitive IRNA dispatches, which at times tend to concoct the meaning of the sentence. Then there are ideological blunders, which because of the lack of attention of our policy-makers for a foreign language, make the least ripples.

Of late, some good commentaries in the Persian dailies and even in the English press, have been ignored. Its proper reflection could have been an ideal means of defense against the averse propaganda of the West.

One such example was our own editorial of August 11 on the wild charges which the imagination of an Argentine judge weaved up against Iran, and on the schemings of

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the western media to strain Tehran-Tokyo ties. [sentence as published] Surprisingly, it failed to catch the fancy of the IRNA editors.

We are not fussy neither do we insist that our views be reflected at all costs. But what tends to be a demoralizing factor is the coverage by IRNA of outdated news taken from newspapers or magazines of third countries irrelevant to Iran or the Muslim world at large.

It is not an uncommon sight to see IRNA English dispatches going to great lengths to promote the policies of another country or unreasonably target a nation/government with which the Islamic Republic may have cordial relations. A wonderful free of charge goodwill service!

News handling is like a double edged sword which if not handled properly could be to the disadvantage of its wielder. It could cut both ways, and would have the desired effects only when media defense is mixed with judicious aggression. This highly intricate job can never be accomplished by laymen. Even journalists who write in English are often not satisfied with the outcome of their concentrated efforts towards this end.

What we would like to emphasize is that those dealing with news transmission should, first of all, realize that in the present-day world communications is the most effective weapon. Secondly, expertise and professionalism is an absolute must for the proper utilization of this weapon. If handed over to unskilled persons, the weapon would prove to be fatal and dangerous.

The Islamic Republic of Iran, a regular target of western cultural and propaganda attacks, can ill-afford not to pay due attention to the profound necessity of fortifying its bastions, particularly those at the forefront such as IRNA.

Industry Minister Describes Investment Under Plans

LD2508151094 Tehran IRNA in English 1442 GMT 25 Aug 94

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 25, IRNA—Some rls. [rials] 20,000 billion plus dlrs. [dollars] 6 to 8 billion are to be invested in industries sector during the Second Five-Year Development Plan (1994-98), Industries Minister Mohammad Reza Nematzadeh said Thursday.

Some rls. 7,500 billion plus dlrs. 14 billion were invested in this sector in the course of the First Five-Year Development Plan, Nematzadeh said in an interview with IRNA on the occasion of the Government Week.

The minister said that 55 percent of the sum invested in industries during 1989-1993 were made by the government and 45 percent by the private sector.

The investments made by the government during the first development plan mainly went to infrastructure projects such as steel and petrochemical industries and some giant machine manufacturing plants, he said.

According to Nematzadeh, production of various types of steel nearly quadrupled reaching four million tons in 1372 (March 1993- March 1994). The output was only 1.4 million tons in 1367 (March 1988-March 1989).

Domestic production of petrochemical products rose to 5.5 million tons in 1372 from half a million in 1368, the industries minister pointed out.

Nematzadeh said that other projects for production of 50,000 tons of paper, 14,000 tons of fruit concentrates, 24 million liters of serum, 125,000 tons of glass, 11 million square meters of tiles, and 3,500 transformers with various power up to 230 kilovolts have been completed and put into operation.

He put the monetary value of the manufactured goods exported by Iran during last calendar year at dlrs. 1.2 billion with production units affiliated to the Industries Ministry accounting for dlrs. 450 million of the amount.

Export of manufactured goods during the second economic development plan has been estimated at dlrs. 10 billion, 60 percent by the private sector and the remaining by the public sector, he said.

The industries minister said that to improve the quality of Iranian-made goods, the country has made the necessary arrangements to upgrade its technologies, enhance the skills of workers and provide laboratory equipment.

In the first development plan, he said, 850,000 tons of sugar, 590,000 tons of canned food and canned fruit, 60,000 tons of tea, 2.8 billion bottles of soft drinks, 675,000 tons of vegetable oil and 27,000 tons of fruit concentrates were produced inside the country.

Peshmerga Claim To Blow Up Gas Pipeline 16 Aug

NC2608054394 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Persian 1730 GMT 25 Aug 94

[Text] An incoming report indicates that on the anniversary of the founding of the Democratic Party of Kordestan, a group of peshmerga from the Martyr Pishva Force and committee cadres from (Shahrgiran and Shamad) blew up the Iran-Turkey gas pipeline near (Susak) village in (Shamad) region on the evening of 16 August. Reportedly, the major fire that broke out afterward burned for seven hours and its flames could be seen by the people far away in (Shamad).

Thus our party's combatant cadres and peshmerga, with the sympathizing support of party friends and supporters, inflicted yet another economic blow on the regime with this operation, again proving that a democratic peshmerga can show his presence in the heart of the Kordestan region and in the most sensitive area and inflict his effective blows on the enemy.

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Pakistan

Spokesman on Bhutto Trip, Nuclear Question

BK2508123594 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 25 Aug 94 pp 1, 4

[By Aroosa Alam]

[Text] Islamabad, Aug 24—Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto will pay a day-long visit to the Palestinian self-ruled area of Gaza Strip on Sept 4, borders of which are still controlled by Israel. The visit takes place in the backdrop of speculations that Pakistan was fast moving towards warming up relations with the Jewish state.

She will be the first head of government of any country to visit the Palestinian self-ruled territory and hold meetings with the leadership of Palestinians in addition to meeting the Palestinian people.

A Foreign Office spokesman in his weekly briefing Wednesday said the Prime Minister will go to Gaza from Cairo where she will be leading Pakistani delegation at the International Conference on Population and Development. When he was asked whether the Prime Minister will be needing the permission of Israeli authorities to enter into Gaza, the spokesman said it was for the Palestinian authorities to seek such permission. He, however, did not elaborate.

After visiting Gaza, the Prime Minister will attend the International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo where she will also be addressing the main conference as well as a forum of non-governmental organisations regarding Pakistan's policies on issues of development and population.

While in Cairo, she would be meeting a number of heads of state and government including the host President Husni Mubarak, American Vice-President Al Gore, Prime Minister of Turkey and Bangladesh Madam Tansu Ciller and Begum Khalida Zia.

The spokesman said a three-day extraordinary meeting of the ICO [Islamic Conference Organization] Foreign Ministers will be held in Islamabad from the 7th of next month to discuss the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Jammu and Kashmir, and Afghanistan.

The meeting will be preceded by a senior officials meeting on Sept 6. Pakistan has received positive response from a majority of the ICO countries for participation in the meeting.

Giving background for hosting the meeting in Islamabad, the spokesman said the regular meeting of the ICO Foreign Ministers scheduled in Tunis in April last could not take place due to Haj and other [word indistinct].

He pointed out that during the recent meeting of the ICO Contact Group on Bosnia-Herzegovina in Geneva and Prime Minister's visit to some friendly countries, it was felt that there was a need to hold such a meeting which would address the most urgent and critical issues confronting the Muslim Ummah [community] particularly the war in Bosnia, repression in occupied Kashmir and the continuing civil strife in Afghanistan. He said in response to the sentiments of these fraternal countries, Pakistan as the current chairman of the ICO Foreign Ministers proposed the convening of this conference in Islamabad.

He said the Prime Minister of Bosnia-Herzegovina Dr. Haris Silajdzic, accompanied by the Vice-Prime Minister and the Foreign Minister will attend the conference.

The spokesman said the attention of the Foreign Ministry has been drawn to a demonstration held in Quetta recently in front of the Iranian Consulate General. The demonstrators protesting against the return of Afghans from Iran raised anti-Iranian slogans.

He said the government of Pakistan does not associate itself in any way with anti-Iranian feelings of the demonstrators. He reiterated the close and friendly relations of Pakistan with the government and people of Iran.

NUCLEAR: The spokesman categorically stated that Pakistan has taken a sovereign decision not to produce nuclear weapons and is opposed to a nuclear arms race in the South Asian region.

Replying to newsmen's questions, he said the position of the government is very clear. He said in the course of the development of our peaceful nuclear programme, Pakistan has acquired the capability but it has taken a sovereign decision not to produce nuclear weapons as against India's demonstrated nuclear capability which is not a secret. He said Pakistan has made several proposals to promote the concept of a nuclear weapons free zone in South Asia, a goal it will continue to pursue.

Asked to comment on the statement of the former Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif Tuesday the spokesman pointed out that it was a political statement made by a politician and must be seen in that perspective. He said that Mr. Sharif did not make such a statement when he was the Prime Minister. He made it clear that the statement of Nawaz Sharif is not the position of the Government of Pakistan.

When his attention was drawn towards the statements by the Indian leaders against Pakistan in recent days, the spokesman said Pakistan has noted them with grave concern. He regretted that these statements have contributed to the escalation of tension between the two countries. He, however, said Pakistan for its part has adopted a responsible position, and did not wish to contribute to the escalation of tension between the two countries despite the continued Indian repression in the occupied Kashmir.

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Asif on Indians in Afghanistan, Sharif Remarks

BK2508131694 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 25 Aug 94 pp 1, 2

[Text] Quetta—Minister of state for foreign affairs Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali has rejected the claim of opposition leader Mohammad Nawaz Sharif that Pakistan possessed atom bomb and warned that the irresponsible statement of Nawaz would only benefit the country's enemies.

Talking to a group of newsmen at Command and Staff College here Wednesday evening soon after his arrival from Islamabad, Asif said the opposition leader was a political adventurist and confrontationist. He charged that the opposition leader's irresponsible statement on the country's nuclear programme was aimed at toppling the government.

The foreign minister claimed that the opposition leader was facing serious differences within his party because of lack of consistency in his policies. He added that Nawaz Sharif did not stick to any of his deadlines set for the political change in the country. He particularly mentioned the opposition leader's demand for formation of national government, by setting a deadline for resignation of president and the prime minister, announced train march, long march, Nijat movement [anti-Bhutto government movement] etc, but failed to materialise any of these.

He said that was why Nawaz Sharif, when he was prime minister did not say [words indistinct] Pakistan possessed the atom bomb, but now when he was out of power and losing his grip on the party, had issued such irresponsible statement.

The foreign minister admitted that Pakistan had the nuclear capability but did not possess the nuclear bomb and added that Pakistan could meet any aggression from the Indian side "because we have full faith in our defence forces' preparedness".

He declared that the armed forces equipped with conventional weapons and having the support of 128 million people could defend the motherland and maintained that "we would use all conventional weapons as well all other means to protect the national integrity."

Sardar Asif said Nawaz Sharif was not interested in solution of national issues and pointed out that he (Nawaz) refused to lead the parliamentary delegation and visit foreign countries to protect Kashmir issue and [word indistinct] public opinion in Kashmiris favour at the international level. Similarly, he added, the PML (N) [Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz Group] did not cooperate with government to adopt a unanimous resolution on Kashmir at a recent joint session of the parliament which proved that Nawaz's only aim was to achieve his "political ends" by creating unrest among the people. However, he said opposition's efforts to use politics for personal ends as a stable government was running the state's affairs and had put the country on the road to development. [sentence as published]

Replying a question, regarding the reports that Indian pilots were flying the Afghan air force jets, the foreign minister said that prime minister Golboddin Hekmatyar had levelled these allegations "and to our information some activities were witnessed at the Baghram airport (in the outskirts of Kabul). However we are still assessing the situation." he added.

Later, addressing a large gathering of the faculty members and student officers at the Command and Staff College, he said that India should be under no illusion and any use of force on the line of control in Kashmir will be considered by Pakistan as an act of war, to which it would respond suitably and adequately.

He said that all Kashmiri groups and leaders had rejected a solution of Kashmir "within the Indian union" and over half a million Indian troops in Kashmir had not succeeded over the past four years in imposing a military solution. The induction of more troops, at present under way, cannot crush the will of Kashmiris, he added.

Sardar Asif said that for any bilateral dialogue, India must first stop the killing of Kashmiri people.

He said that India was the largest importer of armaments in the world for over a decade and was estimated to have purchased arms worth around US $30 million between 1980 to 1992 and its defence budget had increased this year by 20 per cent which was likely to grow further in the coming years.

The foreign minister said that India was proceeding with the development of its nuclear weapon capability and with the induction of its Agni missile it had almost threatened all countries in the South Asia, Central Asia and the Gulf. Its deployment of the Prithvi along our border was specially designed to threaten us and this would oblige Pakistan to respond in kind.

Sri Lanka

Parliament Elects New Speaker

BK2608015694 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 25 Aug 94

[Text] Mr. K.B. Ratnayake of the People's Alliance was elected as new speaker of parliament by a majority of 34 votes. Mr. Ratnayake obtained 127 votes while Anura Bandaranaike of the United National Party obtained 93 votes. Fourteen members did not attend parliament today while one vote was rejected.

The first session of the third parliament commenced at 9 AM today when Prime Minister Chandrika Bandaranaike-Kumaratunga proposed the name of K.B. Ratnayake for the office of speaker. The leader of the

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Muslim Congress, Minister Mohamed Ashraff, seconded the proposal. Mr. Wijayapala Mendis proposed the name of Anura Bandaranaike from the United National Party and Mr. S. Thondaman seconded it. K.B. Ratnayake, who spoke in both Sinhala and Tamil, thanked the house for electing him to the office of speaker. The new speaker was elected to parliament from the Anuradhapura electorate in three parliamentary elections held in 1962, 1965, and 1970. He functioned as minister of parliamentary affairs and sports in the government elected to power in 1970. He later functioned as the transport minister as was appointed to parliament this time from the national list.

Mr. Anil Munasinghe was elected deputy speaker by a majority of 33 votes. He received 127 votes. Mr. (R.S.B. Rekhawa), who contested him, received 94 votes.

Resolution of Ethnic Problem Through Talks Sought

BK2608020394 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 25 Aug 94

[Text] The present government headed by Prime Minister Chandrika Bandaranaike-Kumaratunga is committed to give top priority to end the ongoing war through political dialogue. Every possible endeavor will be made in this regard and the new prime minister has already extended the hand of friendship to solve the existing ethnic problem in the country. The minister of irrigation, power, and energy, and deputy minister of defense, Anuruddha Ratwatte, made these observations at a news conference held yesterday at the Defense Ministry after he assumed duties as the deputy minister of defense. Responding to a question, Minister Ratwatte made it clear that it was the duty of the defense establishment to be always prepared to perform their duties at any time, as and when necessary. Underlining the need for a political solution to the present crisis, the minister said there seems to be some indication of response from the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] to negotiate with the new government. The minister gave an assurance that all efforts will be made to remove the present blockade imposed by the LTTE for the free transportation of food items to the Jaffna peninsula where people are undergoing immense hardships. He said that the president has given his consent to appoint a panel of senior officials from the Defense Ministry to inquire into allegations and complaints against police officials during and after the general elections. Mr. Ratwatte said that any police officer, if found guilty, would be severely dealt with by the IGP [Inspector General of Police].

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